

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
August 9, 2026, 10:30 am Service
Pastor Jacob Pottebaum

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

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

Prelude

Welcome

*** Opening Hymn/Song of Praise: LUYH #551**
"All creatures of our God and King"

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!
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!
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!

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!
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!
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

* 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 #565 *“God Himself is With Us”*

1. God himself is with us; let us now adore him,
and with awe appear before him.
God is in his temple; all within keep silence,
prostrate lie with deepest reverence.
Him alone do we own as our God and Savior;
praise his name forever.
2. God himself is with us; hear the harps resounding!
See the crowds the throne surrounding!
“Holy, holy, holy,” hear the hymn ascending,
angels, saints, their voices blending!
Bow your ear to us here; hear, O Christ, the praises
that your church now raises.
3. Fount of every blessing, purify my spirit,
trusting only in your merit.
Like the holy angels who behold your glory,
may I ceaselessly adore you,
and in all, great and small, seek to do most nearly
what you love so dearly.

Words: Gerhard Tersteegen (1729); tr. composite, P.D.;
Music: Joachim Neander, 1680, P.D.; CCLI #678905

* God’s Greeting/We Greet Each Other

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ

“Lift up your voice with us and sing: Alleluia! Alleluia!”

Announcements

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.
For the LORD is God of justice.
Blessed are all who wait for him!

—Isaiah 30:15, 18, NIV

Prayer of Confession

**People: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned
against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Leader: Hear the good news!
Who is in a position to condemn?
Only Christ, and Christ died for us,
Christ rose for us,
Christ reigns in power for us,
Christ prays for us.
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.
Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

People: Thanks be to God.

-based on Romans 8:34; 2 Corinthians 5:17

Call to Holy Living / God's Law

As the chosen of God, then, the holy people
whom he loves, you are to be clothed in heartfelt compassion,
in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience.
Bear with one another; forgive each other
if one of you has a complaint against another.
The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same.
Over all these clothes, put on love, the perfect bond.
And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts,
because it is for this that you were called together in one body.
Always be thankful. -Colossians 3:12-15, NJB

* Song of Response: *"Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me"* (CityAlight)

1. What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me
2. The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed
To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me
3. No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free
Yet not I but through Christ in me

4. With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Ending

When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me
Yet not I but through Christ in me

CCLI Song # 7121852 Jonny Robinson | Michael Farren | Rich Thompson
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Offering : General Fund

Offertory

*"O burning sun with golden beam,
and shining moon with silver gleam"*

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #567 *"Here I Am to Worship"*

1. Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,
opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore you,
hope of a life spent with you.

Refrain

*Here I am to worship; here I am to bow down;
here I am to say that you're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.*

2. King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
glorious in heaven above.
Humbly you came to the earth you created,
all for love's sake became poor.

Refrain

Bridge

*I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross.
I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross.*

Refrain

*Here I am to worship; here I am to bow down;
here I am to say that you're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.*

*Words and Music: Tim Hughes; acc. Ed Bolduc © 2001 Thankyou Music, admin.
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#678905*

Scripture Reading: Psalm 103: 1 - 8

Prayer of Illumination

Leader: Lord God, we wish to see Jesus.
By your Spirit's power, give us eyes to see his glory.
Through Christ we pray.

People: Amen. — based on John 12:21

Message: "Bless The Lord"

Time of Prayer

"O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #251 *"The Church's One Foundation"*

1. The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

2. Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation:
one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.
3. Though with a scornful wonder
The world sees her oppressed
By schisms rent asunder
By heresies distressed
Yet saints their watch are keeping
Their cry goes up how long
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song
4. 'Mid toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest
5. Yet she on earth has union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
may live eternally.

Words: Samuel J. Stone, 1866, P.D.; Music: Samuel S. Wesley, 1864, P.D. CCLI #67895

We Profess our Faith

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
He is the head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross.

—from Colossians 1:15-20, NRSV

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: *"Wonderful, Merciful Savior"*

1. Wonderful merciful, Savior,
precious Redeemer and Friend;
Who would have thought that a Lamb
could rescue the souls of men?
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

Chorus

*You are the One that we praise,
You are the One we adore,
You give the healing and grace
our hearts always hunger for,
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.*

2. Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,
Spirit we long to embrace;
You offer hope when our hearts
have hopelessly lost the way,
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way.

Chorus

3. Almighty, infinite Father,
faithfully loving Your own;
Here in our weakness You find us
falling before Your throne,
Oh, we're falling before Your throne.

Chorus

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* Postlude

Welcome to worship! Here let us seek to see God more clearly, love God more completely, and serve God more certainly. Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised! 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 9	Next Week: August 16
Sound:	Tim H.	Mardick S.
Projection:	Beth B.	Beth B.
Video:	Henry H.	Tim H.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

August 9, 2026

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

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, August 2 Service: <https://youtube.com/live/aTI7yRwEFUg?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 9: Greg & Beth B., Brandon & Julie S.

Next Week, August 16: Sarah Z, Michelle DK

Worship Team: Today: August 9: Greg B., Kevin & Glenda K.

Next Week, August 16: Kevin K., Eliot B., Heidi B., Emma S.

Nursery: Today: August 9: Pam VZ, Myra VDB

Next Week, August 16: Mandi D., Kenzie S.

Children in Worship: Today: August 9: Angela S., Emma S.

Next Week, August 16: Amy S., Millie F.

Volunteers to Pick up and Drive Home Joy Faber:

Today, August 9: Mardick S.

Next week, August 16: Greg A.

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/THIS WEEK:

Sunday, August 9:

10:30am Worship Service

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:

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner Devotions - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Talking About Sin: Tell and Show" at www.kidscorner.net. What's the best way to apologize? Explore the two-step approach: First, tell God you're sorry and say it to the person you've hurt. Then get serious and show your "I'm sorry" by taking action. Check out the new Kids Corner Devotions app at <https://kidscorner.net/app>

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - God invited his people Israel to model the kind of radical curiosity that recognized the image of God in every human being. For the most part, Israel had little success being curious about others, instead making their own lives their top priority. Their lack of curiosity blocked their ability to see their neighbors in the image of God. Still, the Lord kept his promise to make something out of them for the purpose of being a light of grace and blessing to all other peoples (Gen. 12:2-3). This week reflect on whom God has been asking you to be curious about. Reach out to those people whom God places on your heart, seeking to learn more about them and their life. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

CRC Communications

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.

Resonate Global Mission

We're hiring! Leadership Developer - Middle East and West Africa - This position acts as a North American representative for the Middle East and West Africa (ME/WA) Regional Mission Team, promoting informed partnership with Resonate's church partners and initiatives in these regions. This position will focus on North American church engagement and administrative coordination. In addition to online engagement with team members and partners, this role holds a commitment to ministry through prayer and North American travel for advocacy. This position is eligible for hire in the USA or Canada. The posting will remain open until filled. Apply at crcna.pinpointhq.com



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:

Continuing 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 next week.

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)

Saturday August 1 - from: Resonate Global Mission: British Columbia
Give thanks for four believers who were recently baptized at The Tapestry Nights, a Resonate partner church plant in British Columbia. Please pray for these believers as they continue to grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Sunday August 2 - From: Thrive: Chaplains

Chaplains serve many patients in Veterans Affairs hospitals who not only have obvious physical injuries but often have less obvious cognitive, psychological, emotional, and spiritual injuries. Pray for our chaplains as they provide pastoral care, and may our local churches find ways to enfold veterans into their communities.

Monday August 3 - from: Church Renewal: Diaspora communities

Pray for encouragement for the many church planters and ministry leaders in ethnic-minority churches in the CRCNA. May they be supported by their congregations, classes, and fellow pastors.

Tuesday August 4 - from: ReFrame Ministries: Mexico

The Spanish ministry team in Tabasco recently received blueprints for a new ministry center they hope to build. Pray for the team as they navigate these changes, and ask for wisdom, unity, and provision as they look forward to an exciting year of growth.

Wednesday August 5 – from: World Renew: Venezuela

On June 24 a devastating earthquake hit communities already facing significant challenges. Hospitals, airports, and telecommunications have been affected, and more than 3,000 people have died. Community leaders trained through World Renew programs are playing vital roles in strengthening families, congregations, and neighborhoods. Pray for wisdom, integrity, and perseverance.

Thursday August 6 -from: Resonate: Estonia

Resonate missionary Gary Timmerman in Estonia gives thanks for two men who are dedicated to church planting. Please pray for them as they step into this calling—and for Gary as he trains and mentors them.

Friday August 7 - from: Intercultural Ministry: Supporting hospitality

Pray for the Intercultural Ministry in Canada as it supports congregations in becoming spaces of true hospitality. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide our churches as they embrace diverse cultures and languages. May our communities be places where every voice is valued, every unique gift is shared, and all people experience deep Christian belonging.