

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
September 6, 2026, 10:30 am Service
Pastor Jacob Pottebaum

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

Prelude

Welcome

"Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart"

*** Call to Worship:**

Leader: Sing to the LORD, praise his name;

People: proclaim his salvation day after day.

Leader: Declare his glory among the nations,

People: his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

—Psalm 96:2-3, NIV

Leader: Let us worship God.

**People: "He is our refuge and our fortress,
our God, in whom we trust."**

Leader: Let us confess with our mouths, "Jesus is Lord,"
and believe in our hearts that God raised him
from the dead.

**People: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
will be saved."**

Leader: Let us call upon our true God, believing him
in our hearts, confessing him with our mouths,
worshiping him in spirit and in truth.

—based on Psalm 91:2; Romans 10:9, 13

O magnify the LORD with me.

People: Let us exalt God's name together!

*** Opening Song of Praise: LUYH #859 "Be Thou My Vision"**
(Eleanor Hull)

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father; thine own may I be,
thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.
3. Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only first in my heart,
high king of heaven, my treasure thou art.
4. High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Words: Irish hymn, 8th c; tr. Mary E. Byrne; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, Music: Irish melody; arr. Jack Schrader; © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. CCLI#678905

* Song of Praise: 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

* God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

"Naught be all else to me, save that thou art—"

Announcements

Call to Confession:

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:

**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:

Hear these words of Assurance!
I will sprinkle clean water upon you,
and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses,
and from all your idols I will cleanse you.
A new heart I will give you,
and a new spirit I will put within you;
and I will remove from your body the heart of stone
and give you a heart of flesh. —Ezekiel 36:25-26, NRSV

Call to Holy Living:

We respond to God's forgiveness by living our thanks according to God's Word.

Hear now God's will for our lives:

Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.
You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.
Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. —Ephesians 4:21-25, NIV

* Song of Response: LUYH #626 "Cast down, O God, The Idols"

1. Cast down, O God, the idols
that hold us in their power,
the empty gods we worship
when darkness has its hour.
We bow to other masters
and by their promise live.
Redeem our wayward passions;
our rebel wills forgive.
2. In vain we search for meaning
where transient joys abound,
and seek the soul's contentment
where peace cannot be found.
We wander, lost and homeless,
in endless, aimless quest,
our hearts forever restless,
until in you they rest.
3. O God, we have our being
in you and you alone.
Recall us from our wanderings;
reclaim us as your own.
Restore in us the image
revealed in Christ, your Word,
till heart and will pay homage
to him, our God and Lord.

Words: Herman G. Stuempfle (1923-2007) © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: Chrétien Urhanm, 1834; arr. Edward F. Rimbault, 1967, P.D.; CCLI #678905

Offering: General Fund

Offertory

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

"Thou my best thought, by day or by night,"

Song of Preparation: LUYH #252

“Church of God, Elect and Glorious”

1. Church of God, elect and glorious,
holy nation, chosen race,
called as God’s own special people,
royal priests and heirs of grace;
know the purpose of your calling,
show to all his mighty deeds,
tell of love that knows no limits,
grace that meets all human needs.
2. God has called you out of darkness
into his most marvelous light,
brought his truth to life within you,
turned your blindness into sight.
Let your light so shine around you
that God’s name is glorified
and all find fresh hope and purpose
in Christ Jesus crucified.
3. Once you were an alien people,
strangers to God’s heart of love,
but he brought you home in mercy,
citizens of heaven above.
Let his love flow out to others,
let them feel the Father’s care,
that they too may know his welcome
and his countless blessings share.
4. Church of God, elect and holy,
be the people he intends,
strong in faith and swift to answer
each command your Master sends.
Royal priests, fulfill your calling
through your sacrifice and prayer;
give your lives in joyful service,
sing his praise, his love declare.

Words: based on 1 Peter 2:9-10, James E. Seddon © 1982 The Jubilate Group,
admin. Hope Publishing Company; CCLI #678905

Prayer of Illumination

Message: "Declare His Glory Among The Nations"

Time of Prayer

"Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light. "

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #594

"The Ends of All The Earth Shall Hear"

1. The ends of all the earth shall hear
and turn unto the Lord in fear;
all kindreds of the earth shall own
and worship him as God alone.

Refrain

*All earth to him her homage brings,
the Lord of lords, the King of kings.*

2. His is the kingdom, his of right;
he rules the nations by his might.
All earth to him her homage brings,
the Lord of lords, the King of kings.

Refrain

3. Both rich and poor, both bond and free
shall worship him on bended knee,
and children's children shall proclaim
the glorious honor of his name.

Refrain

4. The Lord's unfailing righteousness
all generations shall confess;
from age to age they shall be taught
what wondrous works the Lord has wrought.

Refrain

Words: Psalter, 1912, P.D.; Psalm 22:27-31; Music: William H Doane (1832-1915),
P.D.; CCLI #678905

We Profess our Faith: Colossians 1:15-20, NRSV

**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.**

* God's Blessing

* Parting Hymn of Praise I Exalt Thee (Pete Sanchez Jr.)

For Thou, Lord, art high above all the earth,
Thou art exalted far above all gods.
For Thou, Lord, art high above all the earth,
Thou art exalted far above all gods.

I exalt Thee, I exalt Thee, I exalt Thee, O Lord.
I exalt Thee, I exalt Thee, I exalt Thee, O Lord.

* Postlude

Welcome to our services of worship and praise! We pray that all will find strength, security, and fellowship with God and with one another. 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: Sept. 6	Next Week: Sept. 13
Sound:	Henry H.	Tim H.
Projection:	Tim H.	Franchesca B.
Video:	Maddie D.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

September 6, 2026

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

This morning after the service we are having our church potluck. If you are visiting, please feel free to join us as we fellowship together.

If you are an educational leader (Sunday School, GEMS Leader, Cadets, Young People's, etc.) please meet immediately after church in the council room for a very short meeting to touch base on the upcoming education season and to see if there are currently any needs before the season begins next week.

For the Youth Group Kickoff on Sept. 13 at 6pm there will be a bonfire at the Speck's house. For more details ask Julie.

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

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 are Committee Lists on the shelf by the mailboxes. Please pick one up today!

There is an empty 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!

Worship Service YouTube Links:

PM, August 30 Service: https://youtube.com/live/-xXdhZmg_tk?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, Sept. 6: Greg & Tish A., Randy & Peggy B.
Next Week, Sept. 13: Wayne & Rhea D., Jillian H.

Worship Team: Today, Sept. 6: Henry & Pam VZ, Mandi D., Jennaya B.
Next Week, Sept. 13: Greg B., Julie, Adriana & Tessa S.

Nursery: Today, Sept. 6: Jeannette F., Nellie VDH
Next Week, Sept. 13: Lauren VDB & Myra VDB

Children in Worship: Today, Sept. 6: Julie S., Macy VDP
Next Week, Sept. 13: Heidi B., Reese VDV

Volunteers to Pick up and Drive Home Joy Faber:

Today, Sept. 6: Mardick S.
Next week, Sept. 13: Greg A.

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, September 6:

10:30am Worship Service

Sunday, Sept. 6: Church Potluck

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

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:

Help and Encouragement After the Death of a Loved One: A GriefShare support group will be starting on Monday, September 14, at Faith Community Fellowship, 1427 Monte Vista Drive in Mount Vernon. This 13-week GriefShare session will meet from 6:00-8:00 pm and will be held in the educational building next to the church. Please contact Dave or Nancy Visser (360-770-9645) for more information or to sign up for the group.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

Sunday, September 13, 6pm: Bonfire Youth Group Kickoff at the Speck's house.

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

Sunday, September 27: Lord's Supper

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

Friday, October 23, 6pm: Youth Group Pumpkin Carving Night & Chili Cookoff!

CRC ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner Devotions: A Safe Place - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "A Safe Place" at www.kidscorner.net. In Matthew 25:31-40, Jesus taught us that part of following him is helping others feel safe and comforted. Small acts of kindness may seem ordinary, but they can show God's extraordinary love. Check out the new Kids Corner Devotions app at <https://kidscorner.net/app>

Sept. 27 is Communion Sunday!

***God meets us in the sacraments,
holy acts that call for our response...***

***In the supper our Lord offers
the bread and cup to believers to
guarantee our share in his
death and resurrection,
and unite us to him and to each other.***

***We take this food gladly,
announcing as we eat
that Jesus is our life
and that He shall come again
to call us to the Supper of the Lamb.***

From: *Our World Belongs to God* (PH – pg. 1031)

***Come share the fellowship
of the forgiven!***

This is a QR code
that will take you
to the Tithle giving
form if you wish to



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 is in the radiation phase of his treatment. Please pray that the side effects will be minimal.

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 31 - Church Renewal: Global connections

The Holy Spirit is at work throughout the world. In many places the CRCNA is partnering with other denominations and ministries to spread the gospel. Pray that these partnerships may be a blessing and bear fruit.

Tuesday September 1 - Resonate Global Mission: Nigeria

Resonate missionary Sarah Aderemi in Nigeria leads a group where moms and moms-to-be can encourage, support, and disciple one another. "Pray that the mothers' group will continue to grow without losing the intimacy, support, formation, and joy at its heart," asks Sarah.

Wednesday September 2 - ReFrame Ministries: Today devotions

Patsy lost her husband in February and has been seeking God through church, Scripture, and daily devotions. Ask God to meet her in her grief, reassure her heart of his love and forgiveness, and make his closeness real to her.

Thursday September 3 - Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee: Democratic Republic of Congo

A frontline worker in the Ebola epidemic asks, "Pray for people ministering in the local church while they serve as frontline responders. Many people don't seek medical attention soon enough, or they refuse to change patterns that allow the disease to spread rapidly." Several local pastors have died from the disease. Give thanks that a local ministry has trained over 150 churches in effective Ebola-response measures.

Friday September 4 - *World Renew: Ebola virus*

Please continue to pray for God's protection over communities affected by the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo and neighboring countries. Ask God for wisdom, coordination, and resources for governments, health workers, and regional response teams as they work to contain the virus and save lives.

Saturday September 5 - *Thrive: Labor Day/Labour Day*

Thank you, Lord, for your words in Scripture honoring workers and the work they do. Guide us to share your love and concern for all people. Help us to celebrate gainful employment and diligent work not only with our words but also in the ways we treat people every day.

Sunday September 6 - *Calvin University: Discipleship*

Calvin University gathers students from all over the world and from many Christian traditions. Some are new to the Christian faith, while others are deeply rooted in it. Pray that faculty and staff may be able to disciple all students well so that during their time at Calvin they may be able to grow in devotion to Jesus.