

2nd's Matters

December 12, 2018

From Your Pastor's Desk: For weeks now Mary Folkema has been busy arranging details and leading rehearsals for this year's Christmas program. This Saturday morning there will be a full rehearsal in preparation for Sunday morning's presentation! We take delight in this great story being told by children we love in a creative and whimsical way. The greater delight, of course, is in hearing and singing the truth of God's love for this world that he sent his one and only son.

Worship, The Third Sunday of Advent, December 16. The Children's Worship Hand-bell Choir will ring "Joy to the World" and we will light the third Advent candle (Joy). Pastor MacLeod will have a short message from John 3:16, and our Sunday School children will present a Christmas Program, "What Did I Miss?" Our offerings will be a Noisy Coin offering for mosquito nets for Karin Medical Clinic, and for the General Fund and Bethany Christian Services.

Area CRC Advent and Christmas Season Worship Schedule

(services at Second Church are in italics):

The Third Sunday of Advent: December 16

9:30 am, Sunday School Christmas program, "What Did I Miss?"

6:00 pm, Worship at First CRC

The Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 23

9:30 am, John 3:16, "Death or Life?"

5:30 pm, Candlelight service at Trinity CRC

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24

9:00 pm Candlelight service at Reeman CRC

9:30 pm Candlelight service at Second CRC (FYSH)

Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25

9:30 am Worship at First CRC

9:30 am Worship at Trinity CRC

December 30

9:30 am, John 3:16, "Receiving Gifts"

Our Church Family:

Jean Sneller had shoulder replacement surgery yesterday and will be starting the healing and rehabilitation time over the coming weeks.

Louise Slager requests prayer for her brother Ken Leutscher following multiple surgeries earlier this week for an abdominal aneurysm.

Please pray for **Harold Kolk** as he continues to deal with a toe which is slow to heal.

Mid-week Bible Study this afternoon, 2 PM.

Find out more about our Reformed heritage and theology. Today's afternoon class discusses the Lord's Supper and some theological terms such as justification and sanctification from the book "Reformed: What It Means, Why It Matters." Open to everyone, we meet at church from 2-3 PM.

Karin Medical Clinic Update

Thank you for the generosity shown with the collection for Karin Medical Clinic. Karin Medical Clinic was facing a deficit of \$8,000, Through our giving and generous hearts, 2nd CRC was able to help offset that deficit by collecting \$3,400. Between 2nd CRC's collections along with other supporters of Karin Medical Clinic the \$8,000 deficit has been erased!

Crossroads Prison Ministries

Crossroads Prison Ministries is an international ministry to prisoners. Students of Crossroads are sent Bible lessons which are returned to mentors for correction. Being a mentor requires approximately a one to two hour commitment per week including writing a one-page letter of encouragement to the student. If you're looking for an opportunity to serve, to share the good news of Christ's love, and to make a difference in the lives of those in prison, consider becoming a Crossroads mentor. Visit <https://cpministries.org/get-involved/>, call 800-668-2450, or email mentor@cpministries.org, and/or contact Second's Outreach Committee - Mariel Poel, Bette Wagenmaker, Tyler Cook, Lewis Blohm, Joe Jiran, and Bob Barnhart.

Love Offering

An envelope labeled "Love Offering" has been placed in mailboxes to give us an opportunity to show our good will and appreciation for our church staff this Christmas season. If you would like to participate, please place your Love Offering in the collection plate in the provided envelope by December 16. You may specify how your gift is to be dispersed if you desire. Please note: any late offerings that come in following December 16 will be added to the General Fund.

CoffeeBreak Update

Give thanks for the stimulating, Spirit led discussions/learning from the fall studies by all involved. Pray that the CB women, like the early disciples, will be bold in sharing the story of Jesus -- in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, the ends of the earth, including Fremont! Give thanks for the hours of dedication/commitment of the CoffeeBreak and Story Hour leaders, nursery staff and refreshment staff. May the efforts of their "hands" be acceptable to God and used for His glory.

On January 8, 2019 CoffeeBreak/StoryHour will resume - continuing the study of Acts. Pray for the women and children returning and that God will continue to use this ministry in the Fremont community.

Library News

Check out the new book displays in the lobby and the library and find some great new reads! There are also some short Christmas reads on display in the library. Clipboards are out for you to write down the date, your name, and the books you are checking out!

Stock the Pantry!

For the month of December the Deacons request soup and crackers for donation to the TrueNorth food pantry.

Community

Fremont Christian School Band and Choir Concert, December 17

Come celebrate Christmas with us as the 5th-8th Grade Bands and Choirs present "Sounds of the Season!" The concert will take place in the Fremont Christian School Gym on Monday, Dec. 17 at 7:00pm.

Western Michigan Christian High School Christmas Collage, December 18

The Western Michigan Christian HS Music Department warmly invites you to our 2018 Christmas Collage Concert! The concert will be held on Tuesday, December 18 at 7:00 PM at the Frauenthal Center (425 W Western Ave, Muskegon, MI 49440). It will be an evening filled with beautiful music from the Concert & Jazz Bands, as well as the Women's, Men's, and Chamber Choirs! Many alumni will be participating as well! Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at the WMC office or through the Frauenthal Box Office. We hope to see you there!

Western Michigan Christian High School Fundraiser, December 22

The WMC School Boosters invite you to the second annual All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast fundraiser to support all WMC athletic teams. The breakfast will take place on Saturday, December 22 from 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM in the WMC cafeteria. The breakfast is donation only. Please come and join us.

Pastor Doug: A Quote from a Book I Read

"Reformed Christians sometimes don't know what to say when they're asked if they are 'born-again Christians.' Some will say no because they mistakenly equate the label 'born again' with the notion of a 'second blessing' or an additional outpouring of God's Spirit that allows you to do things like speak in tongues or heal people. However, the Reformed faith doesn't make a separation between 'first-class' and 'economy fare' Christians. Either you're a believer, and therefore Spirit-filled, or you're not a believer."

-- Robert De Moor: *Reformed: What It Means, Why it Matters*. p. 41