

December 23, 2018
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Worship 9:30 AM

Gathering

Prelude
*Gathering Song: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"
*Welcome and Call to Worship
*God's Greeting
*Passing the Peace of Christ

Advent Expectation

Advent Song: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
Old Testament Lesson
New Testament Lesson
Lighting the Fourth Candle – Love
Song of Love: "Come Light Our Hearts"

Thanking God For His Grace

Congregational Prayer
Offerings: The General Fund and Fremont Community Closet
Offertory Song: "Christ, Be Our Light"
Children's Blessing
Children ages 3-5 are dismissed for Children's Worship

Receiving God's Word

*Song of Preparation: "You Are My King (Amazing Love)"
Scripture Lesson: John 3:16
Message: "Death or Life"
Prayer

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Departing as Witnesses

*Song of Response: "No Longer Slaves"
*Blessing from God
*Parting Hymn: "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"
*Postlude

*Stand if able

*Piano: Kaitlyn Arendsen
Violin: Annelise Folkema
Praise Team: Ellie Folkema, Jenn Mellema, Carly Smith, Joseph Fox
Advent Readers: Maddie DeWeerd, Mary Folkema
Preacher: Pastor Doug MacLeod*

SECOND CHURCH NEWS

WORSHIP TODAY, The Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23. We light the fourth Advent candle (Love) and Pastor Doug continues his series of messages from John 3:16, "Death or Life." Our offerings will be for the General Fund and the Fremont Community Closet.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT is a time to recall and to experience the ancient expectancy for the Messiah with anticipation for Christ's birth and Incarnation. Advent is not part of the Christmas season itself, but a preparation for it. In Advent we share in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, and we renew our ardent desire for his second coming.

OUR ADVENT BANNER AND PULPIT PARAMENT have the presenting color of purple which is symbolic of royalty as well as preparation or waiting. The star and streak of light dawning through the middle of the banner remind us that the One we are waiting for is the Light of the World.

OUR ADVENT CANDLES are presented this year on a wooden beam. Our Advent theme from John 3:16 is that God sent his Son into this world for our salvation. The beam is a foreshadowing of Good Friday's cross beam. The table coverings include satin as a symbol of Christ's divinity and burlap as a symbol of his earthly humanity. Additionally, the evergreen trees serve as a reminder of the eternal life that Jesus bought us on the cross.

WORSHIP MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 9:30 pm. Bring your family and friends to our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight service hosted and led by the students of FYSH (Fremont Youth Serving Him).

CHRISTMAS DAY worship services are being hosted this year at First CRC and at Trinity CRC. Both services will begin at 9:30 AM.

WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY, December 30. In the continuation of celebrating the Christmas season, we sing Christmas songs and Pastor Doug will present the final message in the series from John 3:16, "Receiving Gifts." Our offerings will be for the General Fund and Hand2Hand.

Staff notes: The church office will be closed this week Monday and Tuesday. *2nd's Matters* will not be published this week.

Zach Van Wyk will be on vacation from December 26 - January 2.

THE STUDENT MINISTRIES COMMITTEE would like to thank all the students and parents who helped make our Children's Handbell Choir and Christmas Program a success, it was a joy to celebrate the season this way.

We would also like to thank all the teachers and volunteers that have put in hard work this semester to help make these programs happen. We couldn't do it without you.

HAND2HAND SPECIAL OFFERING: Our special envelope offering scheduled for December 30 will go to support Hand2Hand ministry. Through mid-November 1,127 backpacks have been filled with food items We ask that you prayerfully consider giving to this important cause which helps feed children in need right here in our own community. Should you have interest in learning more about Hand2Hand Ministry or discussing volunteer opportunities please contact a member of the Outreach Committee.

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

Thank you very much for all who contribute to the food party each month. Last month, we were able to give 106.4 pounds of pasta and sauces which help many families in Newaygo County who struggle to provide food for their families every month.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- **Pauline Afman**, mother of Bonnie Emmorey and Jennie Dimkoff, passed away this past Monday evening, December 17, and a funeral service was held yesterday. Our sympathies are extended to Pauline's families.
- **Ron Emmorey** has returned home following an emergency appendectomy on Saturday, December 15, while in Wichita, Kansas.
- Pray for **Jean Sneller** as she recovers from her recent shoulder replacement surgery. Her healing and rehabilitation will require a couple of months.
- Pray for **Vera Hansen** in Germany.

SECOND CHURCH CALENDAR

Today

9:30 AM Morning Worship Service

Monday

9:30 PM Candlelight Service

AVAILABLE ON THE LITERATURE LEDGE

- December 19 2nd's Matters
- TODAY Devotional for January/February

SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS

Ushers (Call Bob Hayward if you cannot find your own substitute)

Today: Dan Ward, Randy Pell, Ryan Buchanan, Tom Stepanek

Next Week: Gordon Polanski, Mike DeWeerd, John Mellema, Roger Folkema

Nursery Attendants

(Call Mary V. Folkema if you cannot find your own substitute)

Today: Infant: Kim Hayward, Sally Mellema

Toddler: Donna Essebaggers, Jenna Karnemaat, Abby VandenBerg

Next Week: Infant: Ashlyn Volz, Marique Buchanan

Toddler: Gail Wagenmaker, Kendall Barnhart, Gabe Brassier

Greeters

Today: Tyler and Jody Cook

Next Week: Doug and Nanci Nieboer

Newaygo Medical Care Facility Visitors Service begins at 2 PM

Today: Speaker Rev. Fred Bultman; Ed and Sara Krohn, Dale and Sherry Lue, Jon and Rebekah Mellema,

Next Week: Speaker Rev. Vern Picknally: Matt and Jenn Mellema, Paul and Sally Mellema, Wes and Melissa Miller

Drivers for Deerfield Residents

Today: Bruce Essebaggers

Next Week: Mike DeWeerd

Sound and Video Operators

Today: Jason DeKuiper, Tyler Cook

Next Week: Joe Jiran, Mahlon Volz

Children's Worship

Today: Donna DeLonge, helper Logan Karnemaat

Next Week: Elizabeth Wolffis, helper Ben Mellema

Kids' Own

Today: Christmas Break

Next Week: Christmas Break

Kids' Own Jr

Today: Christmas Break

Next Week: Christmas Break

Cookies (6 dozen each to be at church by 9:15 am)

Today: Lizzie Van Wyk, Karen Vogel

Next Week: Mary V Folkema, Jenn Mellema