

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

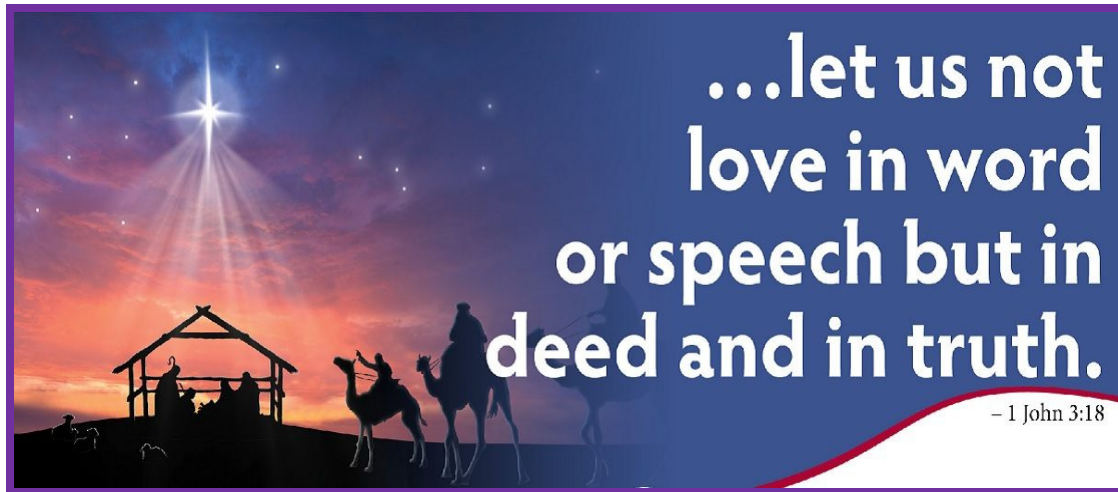
15924 South Park Avenue • South Holland, IL 60473

Office: 708.333.0622 • Prayer Line: 708.333.8150

E-mail: office@frcsh.org • Online at www.frcsh.org

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 9, 2018



Welcome...

The great proclamation “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14) assures us that God has entered human history through the incarnation of the Son. The season of Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness of God’s actions—past, present, and future. In Advent we hear the prophecies of the Messiah’s coming as addressed to us—people who wait for the second coming. In Advent we heighten our anticipation for the ultimate fulfillment of all Old Testament promises, when the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away. In this way, Advent highlights for us the larger story of God’s redemptive plan.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 9, 2018

WE APPROACH GOD

Prelude	Margaret Oetjen
Opening Song of Worship	“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” – Chancel Choir
Lighting of the Love Candle	Ray Ondrejka & Isabella Veldboom “Away in A Manger”
Welcome & Greeting One Another	
*Congregational Singing	“Love Has Come!” “Eden Is Open” “We Have A Savior”
Prayer of Confession	Anthony Bolkema
Song of Assurance	“Where Shepherds Lately Knelt” – Chancel Choir

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture	1 Corinthians 13
Sermon	“Our Lives: The Context for God’s Love”

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer	Larry DeYoung
Offering	Margaret Oetjen
*Doxology	
*Benediction	Moises Pacheco
*Sending in Grace	#754 “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending” (vs.4)
*Postlude	Margaret Oetjen

*Those who are able please stand.

Please join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall after worship for a cup of conversation and a cookie.

MEMORY VERSE...

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” - Isaiah 9:6

CARE...

Ralph Knopf is recovering at home.

Lillian Kortum is recovering from surgery she had on Tuesday at the University of Chicago Hospital.

Colton Smit, Clarence and Judy Brouwers' infant great grandson, continues in the Comer Children's Hospital with bacterial meningitis.

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY: Beth Burrink, Freedom Village, 145 Columbia Ave., Holland, MI. 49423

PLEASE CONTACT the church office if you know of a friend or family member that has been admitted to the hospital.

OUR GIFTS...

Sunday, December 2

Basket Total: \$9,272.10

Online Total: \$3,010.00

Special Projects: \$600.00

Giving Total: \$9,872.10

(Needed Weekly: \$11,000.00)

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS...

COME CELEBRATE the Christmas season with song! The **Men of A-Chord** cordially invites you to join them in **A Festival of Nine Lessons in Carols for Christmastide** on **Saturday, December 15** at 7 pm at Thorn Creek Reformed Church of South Holland, IL. Come join the singing with the Carols and Songs of the Season celebrating Christ's birth! Justin Rich is the director, Beverly Hoitsma is the pianist, and Nancy Venema is the organist. Betsy Archer will be with us this year as soprano soloist. A free-will offering will be taken.

CHURCH LIFE...

WE WELCOME Moises Pacheco to our pulpit this morning. Moises is a real estate developer, an educator, a worship planner, and an aspiring Christian Reformed Church pastor. Moises is currently working on completing the requirements to become a commissioned pastor within the CRC and, together with his wife, Erin, plans to plant a CRC congregation in the East Garfield Park neighborhood on the West side of Chicago.

PLEASE SUBMIT any address/phone number/email updates to the church office for our new upcoming directory. We would like to incorporate updated pictures in this directory, but we will not be hiring a photography company to take photos of all church members. Instead, we ask that you please submit a recent, clear photo of your family (cell phone photos are perfect) to the church office by emailing to office@frch.org. Please keep those photos coming.

BEGINNING JANUARY 13, a six-week adult Sunday School class will be offered. We will be learning about the 1628 origin of the Reformed Church in America and the beginnings of First Reformed Church of South Holland in 1848. The elders are also working on plans for spring and fall adult Sunday School for 2019 and would value your input for topics of interest. If you have any recommendations, please contact Anthony Bolkema at (708)333-0622, Ex. 13.

MUNCH & MINGLE meets today at 11:30am in the Activity Center.

THE DEACONS would like to encourage you to remember First Reformed Church in your year-end giving this Christmas season. We have currently received \$236,968.75 of the budgeted \$253,379.91, leaving a shortage of \$16,411.16. Thank you for your generous support of the ministry of First Church!

MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION will be held **Saturday, January 19** here at First Reformed Church at 10:00am. Our day care children will be singing at this event. Everyone invited to attend! This celebration honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with song and scripture.

OUR CUSTODIAN, BEN PLASCENCIA, has retired. We need some volunteers to help clean the church until someone is hired to replace Ben. If you know of any candidates, who could be part-time for the church and for our day care center, please notify Nyla DeGraff or Anthony Bolkema.

SERMON NOTES...

“Our Lives: The Context for God’s Love”
1 Corinthians 13
Moises Pacheco

PRAYER ROOM – Need a word of encouragement or someone to pray with? Come to the prayer room after church until 11am. It is located outside the double doors west of the Chapel. A team of dedicated volunteers would welcome the opportunity to pray with you this morning.

WORSHIP...

ADVENT is a time of waiting and preparation. Join us for a mid-week gathering during the season of Advent as we pause, reflect and wait for the coming Messiah. We will continue to gather in the Chapel at 6:00pm on **Wednesdays, Dec. 12 and 19** for a time of worship.

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT is **TONIGHT Sunday, December 9** at 6pm. Join us in the Sanctuary for a celebration of Christmas music including Vocal Ensembles, Instrumental Pieces and a Children’s Choir. Refreshments will be served following the concert. Let’s fill the Sanctuary as we celebrate this Advent Season. Nursery provided.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE is **Monday, December 24** at 11:00pm in the Sanctuary. Come to greet the infant King through song, prayer, proclamation, the lighting of the Birth Candle and a candlelit sending.

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDING CAMPAIGN 2018...



We are now addressing the improvements needed for our organ. For more information or with any questions please see Clair Hoeksema, Elder VP, or Mike Decker, Deacon Chairman. “Special Project” envelopes are available on the narthex shelves.

LEARNING...

SUNDAY SCHOOL today for all ages at 11:00am.

- **PRESCHOOL** (Ages 3–4) – This class will meet in the Genesis Room.
- **PRIMARY** (Kindergarten–4th Grade) – This class will meet in the rooms across from the drinking fountain in the Activity Center.
- **SECONDARY GROUP** (5th Grade – High School) – This class will meet at the east end of the Fellowship Hall studying the Heidelberg Catechism.
- **JOIN PASTOR MEL** as he leads a class in the Heritage Room.

FIRST CHURCH WOMEN'S AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY CHRISTMAS PARTY will be **Tuesday, December 11** at 1:00pm at Tricia Paarlberg’s home (15942 Parkside Avenue, 5H). Come for a time of festive fun, food, and fellowship. RSVP to Mary Koster @708-380-4316.

EVENING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will meet again on **Tuesday, January 8** at 6:30pm at Cindy Nysten’s home (16009 School Street). We will be finishing up the study of the book “Uninvited” by Lysa TerKeurst. For more information, please call Cindy Nysten at 708-217-3713.

BOOK CLUB will not meet in December. Their next meeting is **Tuesday, January 8** at 9:30am in the Library. We are reading “Before We Were Yours” by Lisa Wingate. Questions? Call Anne Koval @ 331-4338.

UP & COMING AT FIRST...

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

GREETERS: Griff & Mary Decker and Don & Noreen VanDeursen
COFFEE SERVERS: Clair & Lynn Hoeksema and Russ & Heidi Paarlberg
NURSERY: Dawn Kuyper and Merley Verhagen
ORGAN: Margaret Oetjen; **PIANO:** Joanne Hoeksema
MUSIC TEAM: David Besser, Peter Keep, Nick Paarlberg, & Abby Veldboom
SOUND: Kevin Hesselink; **PROJECTION:** Gwen Adams; **VIDEO:** Ron Rietveld
PRAYER ROOM: Roger & Judy Gill; **WELCOME CENTER:** Russ Paarlberg
FIRST RESPONSE TEAMS: First Responder: Tiffany Buchanan; First Response: Rick Furst
COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Barb Grevengoed, Gail Housman, Nancy DeVries, & Mary Koster

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

7:00PM: Music Team Rehearsal

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

1:00PM: Women's Bible Study Christmas Luncheon at Tricia Paarlberg's home

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

6:00PM: Advent Service in the Chapel
7:00PM: Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
8:15AM: Bell Rehearsal in the Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

7:00PM: Family Life Christian Day Care Christmas Program in the Sanctuary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

GREETERS: Don & Gerri VanBaren and Jim & Bonnie DeGroot
COFFEE SERVERS: Ron & Shirley Scheffers and Faye Gowens
NURSERY: Nikki Nyhanna and Marie Hesselink
ORGAN: Bonnie Feenstra; **PIANO:** Amy Veldboom
MUSIC TEAM: David Besser, Daniel Day, and Kevin Hesselink
SOUND: James Kuyper; **PROJECTION:** Trina Taylor; **VIDEO:** Rhonda DeBok
PRAYER ROOM: Rick Veldboom; **WELCOME CENTER:** Don VanBaren
FIRST RESPONSE TEAMS: First Responder: Tiffany Buchanan; First Response: Rick Furst
COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Diana Abernathy, Mary Decker, Nyla DeGraff & Arleta Hommes
OASIS: Meets in the Loft from 6:30-8:00PM



15924 South Park Avenue • South Holland, IL 60473

Office: 708.333.0622 • Prayer Line: 708.333.8150

STAFF...

Pastor Corey Buchanan
*Director of Mercy & Justice
Ministries*

Anthony Bolkema
Director of Worship & Student Life

Rev. Dr. Rich Grevengoed
Pastor of Care & Visitation

Rev. Mel De Vries
Pastor Emeritus

Toni Smith
*Director of Family Life
Christian Pre-School & Day Care*

Darcy Daly
Nursery Coordinator

Jane Ackerman
Church Accountant

Gerri Van Baren
Administrative Assistant

Nyla DeGraff
Church Administrator

Visit us online at www.frcsh.org

To get to know you better, please fill out our **Welcome Card** in the pew and place it in the offering plate. If you want more information about the life of First Church, make sure to include your email address.