

# 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

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 16, 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.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 16, 2018

### WE APPROACH GOD

Prelude	Bonnie Feenstra
Opening Song of Worship	“Joyful & Triumphant” – Jubilate Bells
Lighting of the Joy Candle	Pastor Corey Buchanan & Sara Jabaay
Welcome & Greeting One Another	
*Congregational Singing	“Joy to the World” “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” “Eden Is Open”
Prayer of Confession	Pastor Corey Buchanan
Song of Assurance	#194 “Jesus Came, the Heaven’s Adoring” (vs. 1-3)

### THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture	Luke 1:26-38
Sermon	“The Favor of God”

### WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer	Don DeGraff
Offering	Bonnie Feenstra
*Doxology	
*Benediction	Pastor Lance Davids
*Sending in Grace	#754 “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending” (vs. 4)
*Postlude	Bonnie Feenstra

\*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.

**Marla Owens** is in Munster Community Hospital going through tests.

**Claude Boomsma** has been admitted to St. Margaret Mercy in Dyer.

**Lillian Kortum** is home recovering from heart surgery.

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

**OUR EXTENDED FAMILY:** Barb Rietveld, 1413 E. Joe Orr Road, Chicago Heights, IL 60411

**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 9

Basket Total: \$11,228.25

Online Total: \$715.00

Special Projects: \$25.00

**Giving Total: \$11,968.25**

(Needed Weekly: \$11,000.00)

**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!

## CHURCH LIFE...

**WE WELCOME** Rev. Lance Davids to the pulpit today. Lance is the Vision Director, the Director of Spiritual Development, and a Bible teacher at Illiana Christian High School. He is an ordained minister in the RCA and earned his M.Div at Western Theological Seminary.

**THANK YOU** everyone for your Angel Tree gifts. The response from you was and is always amazing. If anyone has a Christmas tree in good condition (does not need to light up) that you could donate for our display next year, we would really appreciate it. Contact Noreen VanDeursen at 708-752-6707 if you can help us out.

**OUR CHURCH WANTED TO SHARE** some great news we received from the Institute for Worship Studies. Our own Anthony Bolkema was just awarded the **The Gerald and Doris Borchert Prize for Worship Research**. It is awarded to recognize students who have produced exceptional work during their time at IWS. He has now been recorded as a Borchert Scholar at the Institute. Please take some time to congratulate Anthony (and Kim) and pray for them as he finalizes his thesis and concludes his studies at IWS in 2019.

**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@frsh.org](mailto:office@frsh.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.

**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...*

“The Favor of God”  
Luke 1:26-38  
Rev. Lance Davids

**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.

### *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.

### *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 Fellowship Hall at 6:00pm on **Wednesday, December 19** for a time of worship. 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.

### *LEARNING...*

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

- **PRESCHOOL** (Ages 3–4) – This class will meet in the Genesis Room.
- **PRIMARY** (Kindergarten–4<sup>th</sup> Grade) – This class will meet in the rooms across from the drinking fountain in the Activity Center.
- **SECONDARY GROUP** (5<sup>th</sup> 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 his last class in the Heritage Room.

**NEXT WEEK** starts a holiday break for Sunday School. It will resume on **Sunday, January 13**.

**AFTERNOON WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY** will be on **Tuesday, January 8**, at 1:00pm in the Genesis Room as we continue Lesson 3 “What Matters Most – Turning Worry Into Worship”, Philippians 4:1-9. Study Guide page 113-132; Memory Verse: Philippians 4:6-7. Questions? Please call Mary Koster at 708-380-4316. Treats: Betty Paarlberg and Tricia Paarlberg.

**EVENING WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY** will next meet 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 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, Kevin Hesselink, and Nikki Nyhanna

**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

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

**9:30AM:** Quilters and Knitters meet in the Fellowship Hall

**7:00PM:** Music Team Rehearsal

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

**6:00PM:** Advent Service in the Fellowship Hall

**7:00PM:** Choir Practice

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

**GREETERS:** James & Michelle Kuyper and Craig & Jan Nelson

**COFFEE SERVERS:** Griff & Mary Decker and Craig & Jan Nelson

**NURSERY:** Mary Decker and Gail Housman

**ORGAN:** Steve DeVries

**PIANO:** Joanne Hoeksema

**MUSIC TEAM:** Kim Bolkema, Joe Fransen, Nick Paarlberg, Bill & Nikki Nyhanna, & Robert Wooley

**SOUND:** Rhonda Hesselink; **PROJECTION:** Tiffany Buchanan; **VIDEO:** Ron Rietveld

**PRAYER ROOM:** Ron & Diana Abernathy; **WELCOME CENTER:** Don DeGraff

**FIRST RESPONSE TEAMS:** First Responder: Tiffany Buchanan; First Response: Rick Furst

**COOKIE VOLUNTEERS:** Pam Costello, Celeste DeBoer, Joanne Hoeksema and Alice Kats



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### 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](http://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.