

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH
of SOUTH HOLLAND
Sunday, November 23, 2025



Welcome to First Reformed Church!

“In the beginning, God...”

Amidst our world’s chaos and confusion, through our lives’ struggles and strife, these are the words where Christians begin to hang their hope. These first words of the Bible remind us that before all else, God was – that our God spoke chaos into order; that our God spoke everything into being.

And we believe that our God is still speaking today, breathing words of life to us through His Word, calling us home through Jesus, and encouraging us through the power of the Holy Spirit. As you prepare for worship, ask God to open Your heart to hear Him speak today.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
Sunday, November 23, 2025
WE APPROACH GOD

Organ Prelude

*“Now Thank We All Our God”
“Psalm 100”
“We Gather Together”*

*Welcome & Greeting One Another

Pastor Anthony Bolkema

*Congregational Worship

*“Let All Things Now Loving”
“You Deserve It”
“Unchanging”*

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Anthony Bolkema

Song of Assurance

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reading

Genesis 6:9-8:22

Message

“God’s Mercy & Salvation Out of Judgement”
Pastor Willard High

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer

Ron Abernathy

Offering

Ministry Moment – Bible Studies Update

*Doxology

*Benediction

Pastor Willard High

*Sending in Grace

“Now Thank We All Our God”

*Organ Postlude

“Trust and Obey”

*Those who are able please stand.

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

UP & COMING AT FIRST...

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

GREETERS: Dennis and Deb Woltzen

WORSHIP TEAM: Dacia Hill, Bill Nyhanna, Nick Paarlberg, Anna Sikkema, and Grant Sikkema

ORGAN: Joanne Hoeksema

PIANO: Amy Veldboom

PROJECTION: Jonathan VanderWoude

VIDEO: Eric Pradelski

SOUND: Lucas Bolkema

NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Kim Bolkema

COFFEE SERVERS: Roger & Laurel DeGraff, Faye Gowens, and Gwen Adams

COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Nyla DeGraff, Joanne Hoeksema, and Gerri VanBaren

PRAYER ROOM ELDER: Don DeGraff

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

9:30AM: Piece Makers meet in the Fellowship Hall

6:00PM: Handbell Rehearsal in the Fellowship Hall

7:00PM: Music Team Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

6:00PM: Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

6:00PM: Thanksgiving Eve Service in the Sanctuary

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

GREETERS: Verhagen Family

WORSHIP TEAM: Joe Fransen, Bill Nyhanna, Nikki Nyhanna, Nick Paarlberg, and Bella VanderWoude

ORGAN: Joanne Hoeksema; **PIANO:** Anthony Bolkema

PROJECTION: Liam VanderWoude; **VIDEO:** Rhonda DeBok

SOUND: Lucas Bolkema

NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Izzy Veldboom

COFFEE SERVERS: Jim & Mary Bosman and Trina Taylor

COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Diana Abernathy, Mykah Lett, and Kathy Rhodes

PRAYER ROOM ELDER: Joanne Hoeksema

CARE...

Chuck Dinkel is home from the hospital on bed rest with a severely broken arm from a fall. He has a consultation with an orthopedic surgeon this week to determine if surgery and another hospitalization is needed.

Marla Owens continues in the ICU at Munster Franciscan with elevated blood pressure.

Phil Capone has an angioplasty scheduled on Monday, December 22 to address the most-blocked artery.

Wayne Deinema continues his rehab at Cedar Creek in Lowell.

Anna Mae Groeneveld is home in hospice care.

Clifton Rhodes continues his physical therapy.

Lisa Magnon, Anna Collins daughter and primary care giver for Anna, has been diagnosed with lung cancer and is going through tests to determine treatments.

Sharon Brooks' mom, Paula Amos, no longer needs to undergo chemotherapy. Sharon's aunt, Ginger Scott, continues rehab at Rush Specialty Hospital. Sharon's grandfather has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer and is going through additional tests.

Pray for **Christopher Nelson** as his cancer has returned and further treatment is no longer an option.

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY: Jean Spiekhout, Hartsfield Village, Room 135, 10002 Columbia Ave., Munster, IN 46321

ON DUTY FOR NOVEMBER...

First Security: Dennis Woltzen & Steve VanderWoude

First Emergency: Jessica DeBok

BE SURE TO VISIT THE WELCOME CENTERS to sign up for church events and sign cards for our shut-ins. Please also remember to empty your mail slots.

CHURCH LIFE...

THIS MORNING WE WELCOME back to the pulpit Pastor Willard High. Pastor High is the former pastor of Shepherd's Community Church and a faithful friend to First Reformed Church.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO EMPTY YOUR MAIL SLOT TODAY! Please remember to pick up your Thanksgiving letter and offering envelope. Our Thanksgiving offerings are being designated for Chicagoland Prison Outreach, Restoration Ministries, Local Benevolent, and Roseland Christian Ministries.

JOIN US FOR THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE on **Wednesday, November 26** at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary. Please keep your monetary and non-perishable food items with you as you are seated. Towards the close of the service, we will carry our gifts to the front of the sanctuary as a tactile offering expression. Ushers and Sunday school children are present to help you carry your items if needed. **Food donations needed:** cans of fruit, peanut butter/jelly, cereal/oatmeal, pancake mix/syrup, cans of tuna & chicken, instant potatoes, soups, baked beans, crackers/snacks, frosting, flour, & sugar. **Food donations not needed:** pasta, cake mix, mac & cheese, & cans of vegetables.

CLOTHING CLOSET: We rejoice that our Clothing Closet is continuing to be a blessing to our community. Our next scheduled date is **Saturday, December 13**. If you are able to volunteer to help with the setup, serving our clients while the closet is open, and/or clean up, please contact Anthony Bolkema. Reminder: If you have items for the Clothing Closet, please take your donations to Open Access, 900 Maple Avenue, Homewood. Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00am-4:30pm. Be the reason for someone's Happy Thanksgiving!

THIS YEAR we are again partnering with Chicagoland Prison Outreach in the Angels of Hope Christmas Project. The Angel Tree is in our Fellowship Hall with tags on it for Christmas gifts for children of inmates. Let's get ready to help support these families! These gifts will have to be returned by next **Sunday, November 30!**

THE PRAYER AND CARE COMMITTEE will be meeting on **Sunday, December 7** in the Sanctuary by the organ directly after the church service.

REMINDER: Church Office and Family Life Christian Day Care will be closed on Thanksgiving, November 27 and Friday, November 28.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES TO NOTE...

- **Wednesday, Dec. 3**, come join us at 6:00pm for our (fifth) First Christmas Party. Enjoy a delicious meal, festive games, sparkling conversation, and holiday cheer with your church family! Sign up at the Welcome Center(s).
- **Wednesday, Dec. 10**, our Wednesday night men's and women's Bible studies will meet from 6:00-7:30pm. Join us!
- **Sunday, Dec. 14**, at 6:00pm, join us for our annual Service of Lessons & Carols: a night filled with the Scriptures, sights, stories, and sounds of Christmas. Amidst the busyness of the Christmas season, join us to anchor your soul in God's salvation story.
- **Wednesday, Dec. 24**, join us for our Christmas Eve Service at 11:00pm. This service is always a highlight of the year, as we stay up and greet Christmas Day with carols, candlelight, worship, and sparklers!

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES...

SUNDAY SCHOOL continues for all ages from 11:00am - noon. **PreK-8th Grade gather to sing, work on memory verses, and collect an offering in the Genesis Room from 11:00-11:30am, then move to their classrooms until noon.**

- PreK–2nd Grades/Genesis Room
- 3rd–5th Grades/Library
- 6th–8th Grades starts/Genesis Room
- 9th–12th Grades/Chapel
- Tibstra House/Heritage Room

THE LADIES' MORNING BIBLE STUDY will not be meeting on Nov. 25. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, Dec. 9**, at 9:30am for our 4th annual Cookie Exchange Christmas Party. Please bring a batch of homemade or store-bought cookies to share as we fill containers to gift our emeritus Bible Study friends. We will also be viewing the Session 3 video so bring your study guides along as well. Hope to see you there!

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED to join a new evening Bible study on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month. We meet on **Wednesday, December 10** at 6:30pm in the Genesis Room. All are welcome to attend! Contact Joanne Hoeksema or Alison VanderWoude if you have any questions.

ALL MEN ARE INVITED to join a new evening Bible study on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month. We meet on **Wednesday, December 10** at 6:30pm in the Heritage Room. Please consider joining the men of First Reformed as we seek to grow in the grace and truth of the gospel. See Steve VanderWoude if you have any questions.

SERMON NOTES...

“God’s Mercy & Salvation Out of Judgement”

Genesis 6:9-8:22

Pastor Willard High

EVERY SUNDAY, an Elder is assigned to pray in our Prayer Room for 20 minutes following the service. The Prayer Room is located through the doors and down the hallway from the Chapel (exit the Sanctuary from the door by the piano). The praying elder will be praying for those who attended the service, the needs of our congregation, and various parts of our church's life together. If you have a particular prayer request, stop by and the praying elder will pray with you (or you can join her or him in prayer for our church).



15924 South Park Avenue • South Holland, IL 60473

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E-mail • office@frcsh.org

SECRETARIES' OFFICE HOURS

9:00AM – NOON / Monday – Friday

STAFF...

Dr. Anthony Bolkema
Interim Executive Pastor

Pastor Corey Buchanan
Associate Pastor

Jane Ackerman
Church Accountant

Nyla DeGraff
Church Administrator

Gerri VanBaren
Administrative Assistant

Darcy Daly
Nursery Coordinator

Steve Alexander
Church Custodian

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

Visit us online at www.frcsh.org

Find us in the app store by searching for
"First Reformed Church South Holland" or by visiting get.theapp.co/1779.



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.