

First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa

Bulletin Supplement for 12/22/24

CHURCH ACTIVITIES:

A TIME FOR PRAYER:

- You are invited to a time of prayer before our worship service every Sunday morning from 9:00-9:10 a.m. in the Conference Room. Everyone is welcome to join us.

FROM THE DEACONS:

- Monthly Offerings:** We would like the congregation to know that you may give at any time during the month to any of the causes we have scheduled. You DO NOT need to send separate checks each week, but one check with the offerings and other causes noted that you want the money to go towards would be fine.

December Offering Schedule:

Date	A.M.	P.M.
12/1	Love, INC (In the Name of Christ)	Cadets, International
12/8	Many Hands of Haiti	Missionary Support
12/15	Forward with Faith**	IGNITE Youth Group
12/22	Joe Brummel Work Trip**	Hope Ministries**
12/25	Bible League	
12/29	Gideons	Joshua Christian Academy

**Changes from what has previously been published.

ADVENT SEASON:

- SMILE** and say Merry Christmas! An area has been set up towards the back of the fellowship hall for you to get out the phone camera and snap some memorable family Christmas photos! If you need to update your directory photo for 2025 this would be the perfect spot!
- A-Z NAMES of JESUS Word Search:** This Advent season we will be focusing on the many names of Jesus found in the Bible. This theme will be carried out in our advent readings, our sermons, and our children's Sunday School Christmas program. A word search was placed in your mailbox two weeks ago to familiarize yourself with the many names of Jesus. Extra copies available on the information table as well as the answer sheet. Have fun with it and be reminded that in this Christmas season, Jesus is the only gift we need. He meets all our needs from A-Z.
- Advent Countdown!** In your mailbox two weeks ago, there was an Advent Countdown - The 25 Names of Jesus. It's another way to take one of His names and focus on different characteristics of Jesus as we prepare to celebrate His coming on Christmas.

THE "HALLELUJAH CHORUS" ON CHRISTMAS DAY:

- Plans** for our Christmas Day Service on Wednesday, December 25, at 9:30, involve the singing of the "*Hallelujah Chorus*" which means we need our "ALL IN" Choir to lead the congregational singing.
- Rehearsal** will be this morning immediately following the conclusion of the Sunday School Program. Music will be provided. Please come and be a part of the joy!

CAROLING:

- Instead of a PM Service today we will be Caroling in the community. We plan on meeting at church at 4:30 p.m. and beginning our Caroling at select destinations around 4:45 and finishing at church by 6:00 p.m. Please sign-up on the sheet on the Information Center Table if you plan to join us.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES:

- Today:** Sunday School Program at 9:30 a.m.; Caroling at 4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 25:** Christmas Service at 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 29:** AM Service at 9:30 a.m.; PM Service at 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, Jan. 5:** Winter Worship (Church, SS, Potluck, 12:45 Church) begins.

ARE PUZZLES YOUR THING?

- If you enjoy a good puzzle, one has been set up in the Fellowship Hall. If you arrive to church early or are waiting on a family member, please occupy yourself by finding a few pieces to the puzzle. Let's see if we can get the nativity scenes "ALL IN" their globes by Christmas Day.

2025 HEIDELBERG CATECHISM DEVOTIONAL BOOK:

- For 2025, our AM Preaching ministry will focus on the *Heidelberg Catechism*, this core confession of the CRC that has guided our Biblical preaching and teaching for nearly 500 years. The Catechism is organized into 52 "Lord's Days," one for each Sunday of the year. To help disciple us in this upcoming year, we are making available a family

devotional book *Comforting Hearts, Teaching Minds* to every household in our church. This book has short daily Monday – Saturday Bible readings and devotions that will relate to the upcoming Sunday Lord’s Day teaching. A January – June Schedule will be provided so that families can stay current with the upcoming Lord’s Day. Please pick up your copy from the table by the office. We will start with Lord’s Day 1 on January 5, 2025. If you would like to help offset the cost of the devotional, a suggested donation of \$10 can be given in the box provided by the books.

MONTHLY MEN’S GROUP:

- A Men’s group on the First Saturday of each month will start to meet in the Prayer room on Jan. 4 at 7:00 a.m. We will provide breakfast pizza, orange juice, and coffee. If you are interested, please put your name on the sign-up sheet on the information table (so Pastor Jon can estimate pizza) and take a worksheet for the first discussion.

DIRECTORY PICTURES:

- **Directory Pages:** Directory pages are in the hallway. Please look them over carefully and if you need to make changes use the red pens provided. If you sent in your picture after Wednesday, the 11th, it is added on the computer and will show in the new directory. I’m just not reprinting the pages every time. If your information is correct, please put “OK” by your name. The pages will be out through Jan. 5.
- **Directory Listing:** If you would like your own directory listing and mailbox, please sign the sheet that’s on the table with the directory pages.
- **Directory Pictures:** Just a reminder that if you would like to add/change your picture in the directory that you will need to email (firstcrcosky@gmail.com) a copy to me by Jan. 6. I cannot accept hard copies. Thanks ☺

YEARBOOK:

- If you are interested in ordering a 2025 Yearbook of the CRC, please let Sue know by Sunday, Jan. 5. They are \$11 for regular and \$13 for spiral bound.

INFORMATION CENTER UPDATES:

- 1) De Young’s Prayer Letter 2) Huyser’s Prayer Letter – Dec.
3) Rodriguez’s *Satisfied Wages* 4) Pella Christian Schools *Eagle Eye*

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES:

- Dec. 23 = Johnathon J (Mike)
Dec. 24 = Betsey DR (Kyle)
Dec. 26 = Avery W (Evan)
Dec. 27 = Maggie C (Matt), Trenton DB (Doug)
 Paul & Shirley VD
Dec. 28 = Levi R (Marty)
 Gene & Sue DB
- A **Church-Wide Birthday & Anniversary List** is in your mailbox this week. If we inadvertently missed yours, would you please get the information to Sue and she will update the records accordingly. Thanks!

OFFICE NEWS:

- **Christmas Cards:** Just a friendly reminder that if you have Christmas cards, etc. to please 1) leave them on the table in the office by Friday morning and I will stuff them after I put the large things in, or 2) wait until Friday afternoon to do it yourself and please remember that boxes are below the name. Thanks!
- **Upcoming Deadlines:**
Christmas Bulletin = Monday, Dec. 23, at noon
- **Church Use:** Just a reminder as we go into the holiday season that if you wish to use/rent the Fellowship Hall and/or Kitchen to please make arrangements through the office. Thanks!
- **Holiday Hours:** The office will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25, and Wednesday, Jan. 1, in observance of Christmas and New Years.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LEGACY OF GRACE DONATIONS:

- The Legacy of Grace Student Tuition Organization (LOG/STO) is once again actively seeking donations. LOG-STO is in its 18th year of existence for the purpose of raising funds to help families who are not currently eligible for a State of Iowa Education Savings Account. (For example, at Oskey Christian, the Transitional Kindergarten students are not eligible because they attend a fewer number of days in the school year.) This year the state of Iowa has given our LOG-STO an opportunity to raise \$559,683.00 with a **75% tax credit on all donations** to this great cause. You can also increase the 75% benefit of your gift by donating stock, grain, and any possible Required Mandatory Distributions (RMDs) if you are at least 72 years of age. The donation form was emailed out earlier this

week and there are also copies on the Information Center Table. Questions? Contact Joel Groenenboom at 641-295-2003.

ADVENT MEANS HOPE:

- With World Renew's 2024-2025 Gift Catalog, you can help a family with a filter for clean water to drink, give a child the food they need to grow with a nutrition kit, or provide shelter to a disaster survivor. Choose a gift that gives someone who is poor and hungry the opportunity for a better life today and hope for the future. Gift Catalogs are available on the Information Center Table, you may give at www.worldrenew.net/gifts or call 800-552-7972 to order.

FROM PEORIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL:

- **Thank You:** PCS wants to thank everyone for your continued support throughout this past year. Your words of encouragement, prayers, and financial gifts were greatly appreciated. We are excited to see what God has in store for us in this coming year! Please make sure to check out the latest postings on Facebook and share with your family and friends the amazing ways that God is blessing us here at Peoria Christian School (James 1:17).
- **Bus/Van Drivers Needed:** PCS has an urgent need for bus or van drivers. Starting January 14 - spring break we are looking for individuals who would be willing to help us fill this need. Anyone interested should contact Mr. Copenhagen at principal@peoria.org or 641-625-4131.

FROM CRC NEWS:

- **From ReFrame Ministries:**
 - ~ *Groundwork: Jesus – Our Prince of Peace:* As we celebrate Christmas, join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 9:6, Psalm 137, Isaiah 49:6, Isaiah 53:4-12, Ephesians 2:14-19, and Luke 2:1-21 to discover the deep and meaningful shalom Jesus brought to us in His birth, that He promises to establish permanently when He returns, and how we can be His agents of peace in our world here and now. Listen now at www.GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.
 - ~ *Kids Corner: Advent Week 4 – The Blessing:* Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. We cannot repay God for His love. What we can do is give His love to others and bless those around us the same way God blesses us. Christ is the ultimate blessing, and when we receive Him, it's not something we keep to ourselves. As God's children, He wants us to share the good news of Jesus's birth, death, and resurrection with others. Check out all the great content at www.kidscorner.net, like the Bible Story Podcast *The Story of the Shepherds*.
- **From CRC Communications:** An Advent Greeting from the CRCNA – As we prepare for Christmas, the ministries of the Christian Reformed Church in North America wish to share with you the Christmas story and find comfort in God's faithfulness. Watch this short video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLDIlg-9DLKY. Have a blessed Christmas!
- **From World Renew:** Jesus Christ is Born! As we exchange gifts at Christmas, we celebrate Jesus, God's great gift to us. Will you add someone in need, like Moses from Malawi, to your Christmas giving today? Your financial gift to World Renew helps people around the world who live in poverty improve their lives and find a home for their heart in Jesus. Please give generously to World Renew, go to www.worldrenew.net/gifts, or call 800-552-7972.
- **From Calvin University:** The January Series of Calvin University returns January 20 through January 31. From Paralympians to historians, adventurers, and innovators, we have a topic for you to deepen your curiosity. Join us in the Covenant Fine Arts Center on the campus of Calvin University or online. More information can be found at www.calvin.edu/january-series
- **Year End Support for *The Banner*!** Help *The Banner* reach its annual goal of raising \$500,000 by giving before December 31. Your gift will enable *The Banner* to continue reaching North Americans with inspiring and insightful Christian content for another full year. Please donate now at www.TheBanner.org/Give.
- **From Global Coffee Break:** Start the New Year with a Study – Join one of our Global Coffee Break Online Zoom Studies. Here is your opportunity to participate in a CRCNA resource led by their team. Space is limited. Men, women and young adults welcome. Go to www.Globalcoffeebreak.org/events for more information and to register!
- **Thrive Faith Formation Tip:** For you Jesus Christ came into the world: for you He lived and showed God's love; for you He suffered the darkness of Calvary and cried at the last, "*It is finished*"; for you He triumphed over death and rose in newness of life; for you He ascended to reign at God's right hand. All this He did for you, though you do not know it yet. And so the word of Scripture is fulfilled: "*We love because God loved us first.*" –Adapted from the French Reformed Church liturgy. During this week of Christmas, tell the familiar story of the birth of our Savior with the hope of hearing it in new and beautiful ways, remembering Christ's incarnation and birth for YOU. Brought to you by Thrive: www.crcna.org/Thrive.