

We are delighted that you are worshipping with us today. We strive to be a warm, welcoming place for you to glorify God. We encourage you to please fill out a visitor card found by the hymnals in the pew and place it in the offering plate as it is being passed. To find out more about First Reformed Church, stop at the Information Center in the Narthex, or visit our website: www.sibleyfrc.org.

Glorify! God With Worship

9 am - Cornerstone Service

Children and Worship --(3yrs. - Kindergarten)

**10:10-10:50 am Sunday School,
Coffee Fellowship & Prayer Time**

- Sunday School for ages 3 yrs.- Adult (*see bulletin note*)
 - Sunday School Guide will meet in the Library
 - Men's Bible Study: "Forgotten God" meets on the west end of the Fellowship Hall
 - Women's Bible Study: "A Case for Christmas" by Lee Strobel meets on the west end of the Fellowship Hall
 - Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
 - Prayer Time with the Elders in Pastor's Office

11 am - Christmas Program

No Children and Worship today

Grow! In His Word

MESSAGE TITLE: "Advent: Between Darkness and Light--Joy"

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: JOHN 1:1-13 PAGE: 1645

Stewardship & Giving

Offerings for December 9, 2018: General Fund-\$7174; Benevolent Fund 780; Building Fund-105; MS Youth-\$25. **Special offering for December is Benevolent.**

Advent

Between Darkness and Light

Joy



Happening This Week

Sunday, December 16:

- **9:00 am Combined Worship this morning.** This morning's message is "Advent: Between Darkness and Light -- Joy." We thank the Joyful Voices Choir, Praise Team and Burt and Jan Henrichs for assisting with the Advent reading and candle lighting.
- **Joyful Voices Choir** will not meet today but will sing for the service.
- **10:10 am: Sunday School** Classes 3yrs old-5th grade please meet your teacher in your room to prepare for the program. Grades 6th-Adult will have classes as usual.
- **11:00 am: Annual Christmas Program** featuring the 3yr. olds-5th grade.
- **2:00 pm: "Sing Christmas" Cantata at S-O High School Auditorium**

Monday, December 17:

- **10:30 am: Faith Bible Study will meet**
- **11:30 am: Patience Bible Study will meet** (see bulletin for details)
- **6:00 pm: Elder / Deacon Meetings** All newly elected Consistory members are invited to attend
- **7:00 pm: Full Consistory will meet.** All newly elected Consistory members are invited to attend
- **7:00 pm: Women's Bible Study will meet**

Tuesday, December 18:

- **8:30 am: Chickadee Quilters**

Wednesday, December 19:

- **6:00 pm: Joyful Voices Women's Group** will practice their Christmas Eve song in the Fireside Room
- **Bible Classes & Youth Groups will meet**
 - 6:30-7:30 pm: Bible Class for 1st—5th Grade**
 - 6:30-7:30 pm: Middle School Remnant meets** in the Youth Room
 - 7:30-8:30 pm: HS Remnant meets** in the Youth Room

Sunday, December 23:

- **The message this morning is "Advent: Living in Between--Love."** We thank the Choir, Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar (first service), and Larry and Melissa De Boer and family (second service) for helping with the Advent readings and candle lighting this morning.
- **No Sunday School**

Mark Your Calendars

December 24: 6:00pm: Christmas Eve Service

Dec 26, 30 & Jan 2: No Sunday School or Wednesday pm activities

January 5: 9:00 am Secret Sister Reveal in the Fireside Room

January 6: Installation of Elders and Deacons both services

Go! And Serve Him

Opportunities and Events



Faith In Action for the Month of December is Sharing Christmas Families. All Sharing Christmas gifts must be to church today at noon.

From the Library: Many books have been placed on tables in the Fellowship Hall. Most of the fiction is on the east end while non-fiction is farther west. Feel free to take home any that interest you. Leftovers will be recycled after today, December 16.

Mentor Mom Needed! Do you have a heart for the challenges that mothers of young children deal with daily? Mothers Together is a faith based group that has met for over 20 years to support mothers. We are in need of a mentor mom whose role is to support the leaders of the group as they plan and organize the meetings plus to support the women who attend. Mothers Together meets twice a month October-May on Wednesday mornings. For more details contact Annette Janssen 712-461-0046. Is God tugging at your heart to make the call?

The Patience Circle Salad Luncheon will be **11:30 am on Monday, December 17** in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your salad, dessert, or beverage that you signed up for. Plates and napkins will be furnished.

For Your Information: We have discontinued using Swipe Away Poverty as an credit card donation service. If you are currently using this option we are asking that you remove FRC from any recurring payment options you may have set up. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the office for more information. Thanks!

The Congregational meeting was held on December 5th. The following people were elected to serve on Consistory as Elders: Dr. Greg Kusters, Harold Ernst, and Marlin Roelfs; to serve as Deacons: Dan Heilman, Nathan Buysman and Scott Hulstein.

The last day to contribute to the 2018 budget will be Friday, December 30th. I will be closing the books that week to prepare for the year 2018. Anything received after this date will be held until 2019. Thanks for your understanding.
~Jamie

If you have been a greeter in the past year and have not turned your name tag back into the office, I ask that you please do so. We reuse the plastic sleeves.
Thanks!

Papa Murphy's Pizza Orders are in the freezer in the kitchen. If you were not able to pick your order up on Wednesday night please do so today. Thanks!

You are cordially invited to enhance your holiday season by attending the Community Choir cantata, *Sing Christmas*, to be presented on Sunday, December 16, 2:00 PM at the Sibley-Ocheyedan High School auditorium. The Christmas choral experience, performed by local musicians, will be directed by S-O vocal instructor, Ben Sides, and will serve as a fundraiser for the ministry of ATLAS of Osceola County.

You are invited to the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sibley for a German New Year's Traditional Pancake Meal. The Maxwell family will be serving pancakes made with meat and the flavor of anise on December 30th, serving from 11:00am-1:00pm. Free will offering.

Papa Murphy's Pizza Orders are in the freezer in the kitchen. If you were not able to pick your order up on Wednesday night please do so today. Thanks!

Attention Secret Sisters: We will be having our Reveal party on Saturday, January 5th at 9:00 am in the Fireside Room. New forms have been placed in your mailboxes and new sisters will be given out January 13th. Please have your forms turned back into the Information Center by January 6. Thanks!



Sermon Notes:

MESSAGE TITLE:

“Advent: Between Darkness and Light--Joy”
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: JOHN 1:1-13 PAGE: 1645

In Our Prayers

If you have a pastoral need, please call Pastor Luke Schouten, 920-889-3911, any consistory elder or the church office (754-2783) Remember, we cannot print your name unless you have granted FRC permission to do so. If you have a prayer request you would like included, please contact the office.



- **Pray for those in assisted living:** Ethel Jurgens and Geneva Wissink
- **Pray for our nursing home residents:** Margaret Calsbeek, Minnie De Jong, Tracy Den Beste, Dutch Kruger, Harold Schram and Lois May, and Leona Eben.
- **Pray for our Missionaries:** Dr. Bernadeth Kelly and Adrian Bobb, Jeff and Chelsea Lampen, Sayuri Kist-Okazaki, Brian and Donna Renes, J.J. and Tim TenCley, Rowland and Jane Van Es.



Prayer Requests

Please continue to lift Robert Kruger, Brenda Wassman, Lawrence Wiersma, Michael Block Jr., Ed Meendering, Dave Stofferan, Cavell Van Westen, Mike Kraayenbrink, Leona Eben, Randy Van De Berg, Kelli Vande Berg, and Roger Lindburg up in your prayers as they continue to deal with health issues. Pray for strength and healing for them as well as a sense of God's presence in their lives.

Barb Van Diepen was able to return home from the hospital on Monday. Please continue to pray for quick healing for her.

Jo deBoom underwent back surgery this past week. Please pray for no pain and quick healing for him.

Deepest Sympathies

Our Sympathies go out to the family of Minnie De Jong. Minnie passed away Wednesday night at Sibley Specialty Care. Visitation will be Monday at 10:00 am here at FRC with the funeral and lunch to follow at 11. Please remember her sister Tracy in your prayers as she mourns the loss of her sister.

Sympathies are also extended to Ken Loerts and his family in the passing of his uncle Ervin Backer on Wednesday night at Country View Manor. May God comfort all who sorrow.

Words of Thanks

Thank You for the cards and best wishes for my 80th birthday. Your thoughtfulness was very much appreciated. ~Leona Eben

I would like to thank the church and its members for the many encouraging words, kind gestures and gifts. The many prayers and thoughts have meant a lot to my family and myself. I would also like to thank Pastor Luke for taking the time to come to Rochester on the day of my surgery and stopping by our house several times during this journey. I know that I have made it though the biggest part but will be starting the next part of this treatment soon with a second round of chemo. Thanks again to everyone who has been supportive of my family and myself. ~Cavell & Emily Van Westen and family

I would like to thank everyone for all of the visits, calls, cards and expressions of concern. The timing was not good, but the Lord is in control of that. Now I just need to heal up so Kelli doesn't have to wait on me with her health problems. Thanks again! ~Randy Van De Berg

There is JOY in Serving Jesus!

	This Week: December 16	Next Week: December 23
Cornerstone Greeters:	W: Gretchen Bartelson & Marlys Brink M: Troy & Meggan Block/family E: Travis & Jill Boeke/family	W: Daphne Bremer/family M: Jerrad & Tracee Brouwer/family E: Jamie & Jennifer Bruxvoort/family
After Church Greeters:	SE: Harold Ernst C: Pastor Luke SW: Josh Lucas BE: Henry Fisher BW: Stan Gaalswyk	SE: Lennis Harberts C: Ed Harskamp SW: Pastor Luke BE: Josh Lucas BW: Bill Hartzell
Prayer with the Elders:	Cornerstone: Lawrence Wiersma Open Door: Lennis Harberts	Cornerstone: Bill Hartzell Open Door: Dick Oldenkamp
Children and Worship:	Children and Worship 9:00 am Leader: Deb Kusters Helper: 11:00 am No Children and Worship due to Christmas Program	Children and Worship 9:00 am Leader: Deb Kusters Helper: 11:00 am Leader: Deb Kusters Helper: Family of Kalen Heronimus
Nursery:	Cornerstone 9:00am: Amy Van Marel & Mary Hustoft Sunday School: Sandy Lamfers No Open Door Service due to the Christmas Program at 11:00am	Cornerstone 9:00am: Brenda & Leah Ackerman Sunday School: No Sunday School Open Door 11:00am: Kathy Runia & Abby Kreykes
Library:	Mary Hustoft	Jan Juffer
Coffee:	Lawrence & Ruth Ann Wiersma	Glenn & Paul Doorenbos



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Hours: Mon, Thurs., Fri. 8am –2 pm
Wednesday Evenings 6:30-7:45 pm

All bulletin announcements are due in the church office by Wednesday noon. Bulletins are printed on Thursday morning.