



"The First Edition"

of First Reformed Church
Sioux Falls, SD

December 2018

*"Connect with others,
Grow in faith, and
Be Transformed by the Holy Spirit"*

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Sunday's

@ FRC

8:30 am

Traditional Service

10:30 am

Contemporary
Service

Merry Christmas or Should I Say Merry Xmas

I'm sure you all have seen it... Merry Xmas, or just Xmas ...and then thought or heard, "how can they take 'Christ' out of Christmas!?"

I can totally see where people would look at the abbreviation and think, "first it was 'Happy Holidays, and now this; just another way of making Christmas in to another secular holiday.'" If you don't have a little Greek in your language bag, then it just looks like an "X," but if you have a little Greek at your disposal things begin to become much clearer! To understand this, we need a slight tangential history lesson –

Greek was the language that Alexander The Great gave most of the known world when he conquered almost everything from Greece to India; after him the Romans would come to power and establish roads and commerce over much of the same area. Alexander would give the world a common language and Rome would give the world a means of connecting... The early church would use this to their advantage! What we call the "New Testament" was really letters to believers in the church, and eventually to the whole world through the "Gospels" (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)...these "letters" were originally written in Greek! The early church used Roman roads to travel and Greek language to communicate (crazy how you can see God's actions and the dots connect when you look back).

So for the early church, communicating mainly in Greek, Jesus was know as "The Christ" (a Greek translation of the Hebrew word Messiah). Christ in Greek looks like:

Χριστός

And here is where things come back around... the letter "X" in Greek is, "Ch" in English. And since the early days of the church an "X" has been short hand for Christ. When the Roman emperor Constantine went to battle it was with an  on his shields and banners – the first two letters of the Greek word Christ ("X"- "Ch" and "P" in Greek is an 'r' in English).

So.... If we really get down to it; when you see the word "Xmas," you are really seeing an ancient short hand for Christmas.

Merry Xmas Y'all

Pastor Ken



Merry Christmas from the staff of

First Reformed Church

Pastor Steve, Pastor Ken

Lyle, Tanner, Lisa

Janet, Courtney

To locate the calendar, please go to the home page of the church website





Christmas Eve Worship

Monday, December 24th

2 Candlelight Worship Services:

4:00 & 5:30 pm

Same worship service - choice of two different times



Sunday, December 2nd

Christmas Caroling

Lunch provided and then we will go caroling to FRC's shut in's

Lunch begins immediately following the 10:30 am worship service in the church fellowship hall

You're Invited to:



Sunday, December 16th

Children's Christmas Program

5:00 pm / FRC Sanctuary

See page 6 for full practice schedule



December 2, 9, 16, & 23 Worship

Duplicate services at 8:30 am and 10:30 am

We know that people of all ages love to sing Christmas carols during Advent.

And, that is why this December, we are filling both worship services with carols.

In fact, during December, both worship services will be exactly the same - with the same carols, worship bands, etc.

So come, let us adore him and worship together!

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

1	Roger Kriz	22	Beckham Dewitt
	Grace Kroon	24	Tina Buysman
	Darcy Van Gorp		Timothy Klein
	Jacob Vermeer	25	Katie Whisler
	Owen Albers	26	Benita Weinacht
	Doug VanRoekel		Collin Dewitt
2	Glen Landeen	28	Lynette Foltz
3	Rhonda Miller		Karen DeWitt
4	Taylor Klein		Peyton Klein
	William Jonescheit		Hunter DeWitt
5	Ashley Meyer	29	Laurie Landeen
	Mark Zweep		Abby Perrenoud
	Anthony Mills		Shaun Drummond
7	Ronitta Sandahl	30	Vicki Berg
8	Jacob Green		Connor Westra
9	Jason Burns		Andre Barnabe
10	Abby Larsen	31	Lorna De Bulten
11	Olivia Albers		Delany Lammers
	Keri Eberline		Eva Punt
13	Sean Guthmiller		
14	Norman Buysman		
	Haley Lee		
	Luke Boe		
	Cooper Hutchinson		
15	LaVonne Reemtsma		
17	Carol Nugteren		
	Levi DeWitt		
	Todd Canfield		
18	Amber Burns		
	Janet Anthes		
	Jackson Ellens		
20	Katie Lathan		
21	Patty Terpening		

Anniversaries

8	Don & Carol Nugteren
11	Jason & Carmen Doppenberg
27	Jay & Diane Nagel
	Stu & Shirley Oines
28	Neal & Laurie Landeen
29	Bill & Mary Schoep



If we missed your birthday, please, notify the office so we can update our records and include you next year.



“Glory Giving Tree”

to benefit children of men and women in the justice system

Glory House of Sioux Falls has invited the people of First Reformed to donate Christmas gifts which will be given to the children of their clients. (Glory House is a Christian halfway house established in 1968 to help persons coming out of incarceration to find jobs, housing and hope. Several thousand have been served over the years, many of whom are now law-abiding, tax-paying, responsible citizens who support their families and their churches as well. Glory House clients include women as well as men; half of all clients have one or more dependent children.)

We have set up a “Glory Tree” in the church fellowship hall. On this tree, you will find tags with gender and ages of children which we would like to provide a gift for. Take the tag and after a gift has been purchased, bring the gift back and place it under the tree. *The gift should be unwrapped.* **The deadline for all gifts is Monday, Dec. 10.**

We are asked to provide boys and girls aged 1-12, and gifts for boys and girls aged 13-18. Suggestions for teen girls include: purses, wallets, fashion scarves, perfume sets, nail care sets, warm fuzzy socks and similar personal items. Suggestions for teen boys include: wallets, cologne sets, DVDs, games, sports equipment, nerf guns. No suggestions are made for younger ones, who are easier to please. Each gift should be valued at about \$20.

We want to provide a minimum number of gifts to the Glory House. And, that is why there are tags on the tree. If the tags are gone, please feel free to bring a gift for any age group and place it under the tree.

You can also give any amount of cash to the Glory House, and they will purchase gifts for the kids too. Simply place your donation in the offering plate in an envelope labeled “Glory House Christmas”, and we will make sure they receive this donation.

We are thankful for the opportunity to respond to this need, remembering Jesus’ words in Matthew 25, “I was in prison, and you came to me . . . As you did it for the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you did it for me.”



Sunday, December 9th

Congregational Meeting & Potluck

Lunch in the church fellowship hall immediately following the 10:30 am worship service

For Lunch:

Hot ham & cheese provided

If your last name begins with A-R,
please bring a salad or side to share

If your last name begins with S-Z,
please bring a dessert to share

Once lunch is done, we will move to the sanctuary for the annual meeting. At the annual meeting, we will hear ministry team 2018 highlights, affirm the elder/deacon nominees, and admin team nominee. We will also vote on the proposed 2019 budget.

Elder, Deacon, and Admin Team Nominees are:

For Elder: Cal Hoekstra, Tim Klein, Jay Nagel, Jeff Spaans, Dave VanNieuwenhuyzen.

For Deacon: Trenton Burbach, Sean Guthmiller, Kevin Huls, Travis VanGinkel.

Admin Team: Scott Perrenoud

All members are encouraged to enjoy lunch and then attend the annual meeting.



Sunday, December 30th

One worship service only

10:00 am

Also, there will be NO Kids or Youth Sunday School, Sprouts in Worship or Children & Worship on Sunday, December 30th



Make this Christmas season special by having your son or daughter in FRC's Children's Christmas program!

Practice Schedules for Children:

Ages Preschool through 1st Grade

Sunday mornings @ 10:20 in the theatre room and Wednesday, December 12th from 6:15 - 6:30 pm

Ages 2nd- 5th Grade

Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour (practicing the music parts)

Wednesday evenings: Dec. 5 and Dec. 12
6:15 - 7:00 pm

(Please try to attend all Wednesday evening practices)

Practicing in the theatre room (lower level of Education wing)

Contact Jo Beal or Janet Anthes with questions

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 16th
5:00 pm
FRC Sanctuary

Preschool through 5th grade



"A Night in Bethlehem"

Preschool through 5th grade

Sundays mornings: December 2, 9, 16, & 23
9:30 - 10:15 am

Meets in the lower level of the education wing

Go back in time with us to explore Bethlehem of long ago:

Dec. 2: Mary's encounter with the angel, dye shop

Dec. 9: Fishing, toy shop

Dec. 16: Mosaic shop, grinding mill

Dec. 23: Wiseman, birth of Jesus in stable

Come grow closer to Jesus with us in December

Adventure Kids Leaders Wanted

January - April 2019

We are midway through our Adventure Kids program and are in need of a few "second semester" leaders. The second semester runs from January 9th through April 3rd, with the season ending celebration on April 10th.

We are looking for:

1. Two - 4th & 5th grade girls leaders
2. One - 2nd & 3rd grade boy leader

If you are interested and will to serve, please contact Janet Anthes at 254-5646.



Wednesday Evenings

Serving 5:30 - 6:15 pm
in the church fellowship hall

Free will donation

December Menu:

December 5th: Breakfast for supper (served by the Connect Team)

December 12th: Sloppy joes/coney dogs (served by the Operations team)

December 19th to January 2nd : Holiday Break

No The Table

Wednesday Evening Adult Topical Forums

each Wednesday evening
6:15 - 7:45 pm

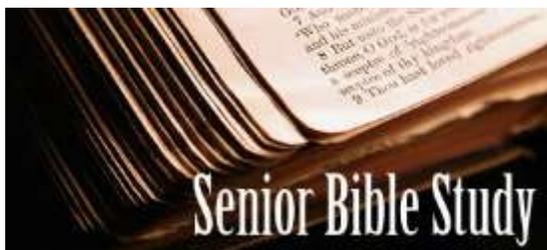
meets in Room 12 or the east room of the Education Wing



Adoption

December 5th
and 12th

A number of our church members have asked about adoption recently. What is the process? What can we expect? How? Is this right for our family or not? All of these questions are important and will be addressed in this forum. Keri Eberline will be leading these sessions but you will most likely be hearing from other families that went through this process. What is their real life story? If you are considering adoption don't miss this opportunity to hear from others.



Senior Bible Study

Monday, December 3rd @ 10:00 am
@ Meadowstone

Meets the 1st Monday of each month

Thank You

A special thank you to everyone who remembered me with cards, thoughts, and prayers in the loss of my sister, LeeAnn. Your words of sympathy and hugs meant a lot to me also.

Karen Rush

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, cards, and concern on the passing of my sister and nephew. It was greatly appreciated.

Joyce Egge

Thanks be to God for his healing and knowing He is always faithful. Thanks for your prayers, visits, cards, and phone calls. Special thanks to Pastor Steve for his visit.

Char VanDenOever

Thank you for all the cards, thoughts and prayers when Bob passed away. I appreciate this church family and ask God's blessing to all of you.

Family of Robert Brandsma

Thank you for the prayers, cards, visits, meals, and other expressions of concern and encouragement. Bill thanks the P & S ladies for the beautiful prayer quilt. Laura thanks the P & S ladies for the pretty flowers and the awesome 'Star Wars' prayer quilt. Laura also thanks Pastor Steve and Lyle for visiting and sharing communion. We are truly blessed to be part of a caring church family.

The Schoeps

We want to say "thanks" for all the visits, phone calls, food, and prayers during Shirley's stay at the Good Samaritan Rehab. Also, thanks to the "take them a meal" good cooks for the assortment of meals shared with us. Thanks to the ambitious crew who helped us with the fall cleanup in our yard. Lastly, thank you Pastor Steve for your visits and prayers.

*In God's love,
Gary & Shirley Christensen*

Kids Christmas Celebration

A HUGE thank you to this year's coordinators, volunteers, cookie & frosting makers for the Kids Christmas Celebration. We had the largest turnout ever! The kids attending got to see Santa and also have fun making crafts and decorating cookies. Plus, they were able to take home some keepsakes about the true meaning of Christmas.

And, of course, we would like to give a special thank you to our own Sioux Falls Santa. He truly makes every child feel special, and we are so blessed to have him here at FRC.



Prayer Groups

Everyone is invited to join these prayer groups which meet in FRC's Prayer Room

Every Wednesday: 6:30 am

Early Morning Prayer Group

Every other Wednesday: 5:30 pm

December 5th & December 19th

Men's Prayer Group

CASA Homes of Hope Mission Trip to San Luis, Mexico

March 17th - 23rd, 2019

We are accepting donations to help cover the cost of the beds and a stove for the family.

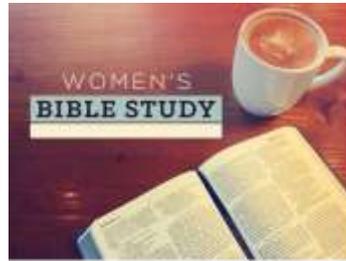
For more information or if you would like to help out, contact Steve or Patti Kuck

Winter Weather Reminders:

- Wear appropriate shoes. Take advantage of the car port.
- Drive slow in parking lot.
- Use 57th Street entrance to avoid hills on Tomar Road entrances.
- Respect Limited Mobility parking signs, but park in these spots if you have limited mobility.
- Leave earlier from home to avoid rushing.
- Park further out if you walk easier on slippery roads so others can park closer.
- Be available to help people to and from their car.

WHERE TO LOOK FOR CHURCH CANCELLATIONS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER:

- Church Website
- A message sent for those on the e-prayer line
- KNWC radio or website
- KELO website



Women's Monthly Bible Study Groups

All women are invited to join one of two monthly small group women Bible Studies

Esther Circle Bible Study

Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month

The Esther Circle will meet at 6:00 pm on Thursday, December 13th in the church fellowship hall. This will be their Christmas party. Come for a night of food, fun, and fellowship. Contact people for the Esther Circle is Theola Viet and Jean Volkers.

Faith Circle Bible Study

Meets the 4th Thursday of the month

Because of Christmas, this month the Faith Circle, will be meeting on January 3rd, at Gravel Road Blend in Harrisburg, 512 N. Cliff (Schoeneman's strip mall). And, there is no lesson because it is their Christmas party. You may bring a \$10-\$15 gift for a gift exchange. Contact people for the Faith Circle are Donna Larsen or Chrystal Poppen.



Young Adult Christmas Cookie Party

Saturday, December 15th

9:00 am

FRC fellowship hall

All young adults are invited to the annual Christmas cookie/treat making party on Saturday, December 15th. Bring your ingredients and utensils for your treats and bake away. Then, you will get to take some goodies home and the rest will be given away at the Children's Christmas program.

Let us know if you are coming on the Young Adult face book group page. Or, contact Luke Boe with any questions.

2019 Offering Envelopes

In mid to late December, we will be putting the 2018 offering envelope boxes in your church mailbox.

If you have not used envelopes in the past or did not receive envelopes in your mailbox after late December and would like to begin using the envelopes, please contact Lisa in the church office. We will be glad to get you offering envelopes for 2019. You do not have to be a FRC member to receive these envelopes.

Also, as a reminder, we do offer electronic giving through ACH. These offerings are also recorded on your yearly giving statement. And, this way of giving is very convenient and safe. Talk to Lisa or any deacon to learn more and to obtain an ACH enrollment form.

Yearly Assessments (Per Member)

As we close out the year, the Deacons would like to remind everyone that over \$39,000 of our 2018 general fund budget goes to the RCA for assessment payments. To break this down even further, in 2018, FRC paid \$105.30 to the RCA for each confessing member. This number will increase to \$115 per member in 2019.

If you are a member here, please consider this amount as you are giving to the church. Thank you!

Monthly Special Offering

\$1,141.00 was donated by the Congregation for the October special offering to Diana Langerock. Our sincere thanks to all who donated.

2018 Special Offering Schedule

December - West Haven/Robins Nest Orphanages

To donate, please use one of the "Special Offering" envelopes located at the entrances or in the pews.

Hope Haven International Ministries presents
"Rejoice"

featuring Nashville recording artist *Jill Miller*

Tuesday, December 18th

7:00 pm / Orpheum Theatre, S Falls

Tickets available at the Washington Pavilion Box Office or info@washingtonpavilion.org or 605-367-6000

The Christmas concert will feature the Bell Choir from Sioux Falls Christian School

Proceeds will go towards funding wheelchair sponsorships for an upcoming overseas distribution trip in 2019

For more information, please visit www.hopehaven.org

Notes From FRC Deacons

Weekly Averages through October 31, 2018

General & Capital Improvements Fund

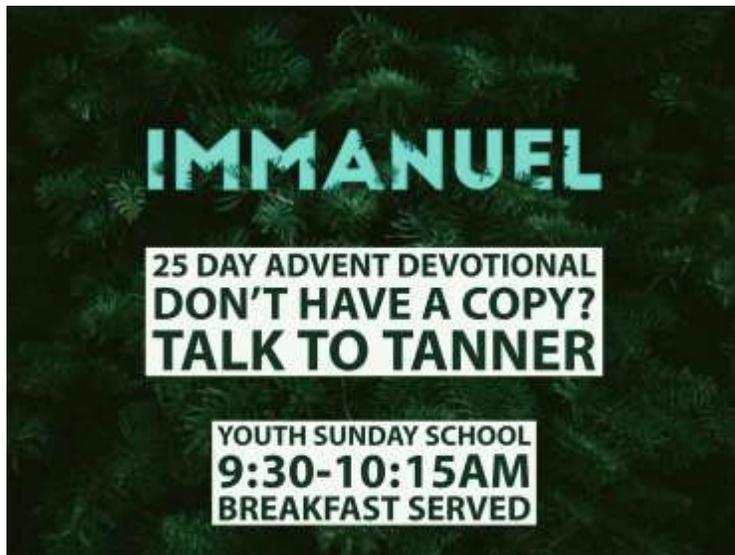
2018 Budget: \$11,474.12
Receipts: \$10,212.05
Expenses: \$10,435.33

Building Debt Reduction

2018 Budget: \$ 923.08
Receipts: \$ 820.63

FRC Youth Ministry

6th - 12th grade youth



Hy-Vee Card Sales
(Following the 8:30 service in the fellowship hall)
Dec. 2: Whiting
Dec. 9: Albers
Dec. 16: Volunteer Needed
Dec. 23: Blind
Dec. 30: No Sales

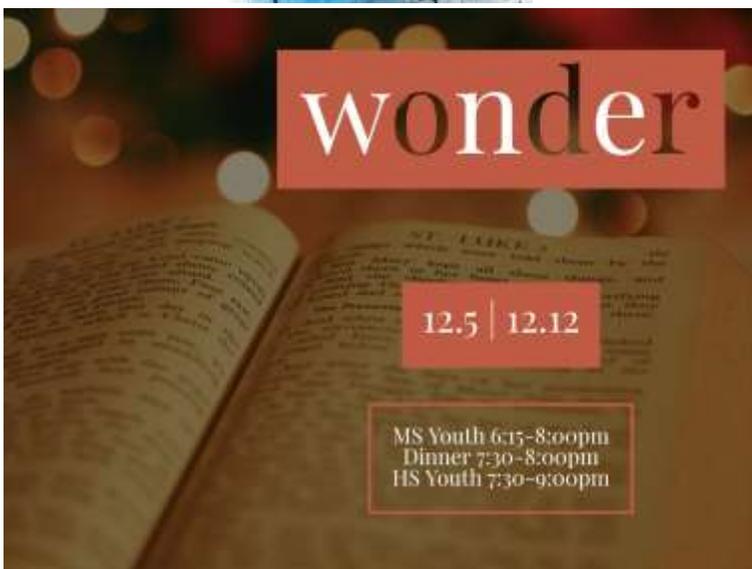


**BUFFALO WILD WINGS
TURKEY BOWLING
GAMES & PRIZES
WEAR YOUR UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER!**

**Ugly Christmas
Sweater Party**

Wed., Dec 19th
6:15-11 PM

Bring your friends & your favorite
Christmas goodies to share!



High School Mission Trip Parent Meeting
Sunday, December 9th / 9:30 am / Youth Room

"Igniting a fellowship of youth to grow and share the love of Christ."

The Treasurer's Report is not available online for the general public. FRC members can see a copy of the report in the My FRC section of this website.



First Reformed Church

4800 S. Tomar Road, Sioux Falls SD 57108

Phone: 605-338-1553

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Phone Prayer Line: 605-338-1553 Option #2

Email: office@firstreformedsf.com

The Consistory

Elders

2018

Earl Brown
Dennis Olsen, Clerk
Jim Westra

2019

Darcy VanGorp
Galen Versteeg

2020

Mari Perrenoud
Carl Wynja, Vice President

Deacons

2018

Brandon Kinney
Timothy Klein, Treasurer
Linda Olsen

2019

Bill Blewett
Jay Headley, Asst Treasurer

2020

Luke Boe
Mark DeWitt

Website

www.firstreformedsf.com



firstreformedsf



FirstReformedSF

Advent Sermon Series



Each week, both worship services can be viewed live or any day of the week that works with your schedule. All links can be found on FRC's website.



How to Contact your Church Staff:

Pastor Steve Anthes - Pastor of Education & Spiritual Growth - 351-2685; email: steve@firstreformedsf.com

Pastor Ken Eberline - Pastor of Administration & Worship - 261-3150; email: ken@firstreformedsf.com

Tanner Mans - Director of Youth Ministries - 370-2743; Email: TannerM@firstreformedsf.com

Lyle Kroon - Traditional Service Worship Coordinator-335-1624; email: clam@firstreformedsf.com

Contemporary Worship Coordinator - Currently vacant

Janet Anthes - Connect & Volunteer Coordinator - 254-5646; email: janet@firstreformedsf.com

Lisa Drenth - Office Manager-338-1553; email: office@firstreformedsf.com

Deadline for article submission for the First Edition : The third Sunday of the month unless otherwise published.