

Thankful Thoughts

“The worst moment for the atheist is when he is really thankful and has nobody to thank.” That quote from 19th-century painter Daniel Rossetti is often misattributed to Christian apologist G.K. Chesterton. In fact, Chesterton springboarded off Rossetti’s statement to elaborate on thankfulness.

“The converse of this proposition is also true,” said Chesterton, “And it is certain that this gratitude produced ... the most purely joyful moments that have been known to man. [Rossetti] boasted that he mixed all his colors with brains, and the great saint may be said to mix all his thoughts with thanks.”

Hungry for Jesus

Many residents of first-world countries avoid true physical hunger, grazing at the slightest stomach rumble. Spiritually, the opposite is common. Many people run on empty, unaware of or rejecting Jesus’ free gifts of grace, love and abundant life.

In her Magnificat, Mary proclaims, “He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty” (Luke 1:53). To be filled with Jesus, first we must empty ourselves and hunger for him. But what does that look like?

At Bible.org, pastor Steven J. Cole writes, “Starving people aren’t interested in new smart phones or computers, unless they can somehow sell them to buy food. Hungry people have one focus – where to find food. It consumes their whole existence ... That’s how we should hunger for God!”

Spiritual hunger leads to a feast of God’s blessings. He generously gives us gifts that overflow into the lives of others. So let’s share Jesus with people who are starving for him!

Sunday, November 17, 2024

Welcome! The writer of Hebrews urges us to “not stop gathering together with other believers” but “encourage each other even more” (10:25). So let us worship.

Today at First

Pastor Brian Dunn leads us in worship today. C.G. #1 hosts coffee time.

Next week, Pastor Brian Dunn will lead our services. C.G. #1 hosts coffee time.

Our Church Family

We extend our Christian sympathy to **Jevon & Angela Klyn and family** and the extended family of **Sylvia Buyert**, who died Sat., Nov. 9. Her funeral was yesterday. May the Lord grant his comfort to all those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

Betty Kreykes has moved to the Prairie View Home in Sanborn. She is improving and will continue to work on improving her movement.

Nursery Today Wyatt & Breanna C., Ashley B. **11-24** Devin & Elissa D.J., Junior M.
Thanksgiving Phil & Courtney L., Maci K.

Valet Parking 11-17 Keith H. **11-24** Lance H. **Thanksgiving** Cory J.

Sound Today Kassy/Olivia/Amelya **Nov. 24** Heynen/Jacob/Josh
Security Today Norm S. **11-24** Dolan G.

Praise Team Today Avery, Maci, Boden, Ethan **11-24** Missy, Angela, Jevon, Dave
Thanksgiving Day Rachel, Laura, Arlo, Shane

Cookies Nov. 24 Ruth K., Betty K., Lindsey N. **Dec. 1** Patty N., Chris P., Joellen S.

Offerings only for: Gen. Fund, Christian Ed., Above Quota Missions & Classical Min. Shares. Put in offering box, Treasurer’s box, or mail to church (901 9th Street).

First CRC Announcements:

- **Operation Christmas Child** – please bring back filled boxes **TODAY**.
- **The December Reflector** will be printed this week, if you have something to include, please put it in the secretary’s box (by council rm) Tues., Nov. 19, 9 am.

Activities This Week

Sun.	10:45 AM	Catechism Classes meet	
	10:50 -11:10 AM	PreK – 4th Practice Songs for program	
	11:00 AM	Choir practice	
	5:00 PM	Evening Worship Service	
Wed.	7:00 PM	Cadets meet at 1 st CRC.	GEMS meet at Immanuel CRC.

First CRC Announcements Continued...

- **Reverse Offering for Love INC Food Pantry** – take 1 or more slips from basket on offering box. Please bring items to table in fellowship hall **by Nov. 24**. Thanks!
- **Church Office Hours next week** – Mon & Tues. (Nov. 25 & 26) 9 – 5; Wed., Nov. 27 9 – 12. Bulletin announcements due Mon., Nov. 25 @ 9 a.m. Thanks!
- **Congregational Meeting** – Wed., Dec. 4. There will be a smoked meat supper and sides provided at the congregational meeting. Make plans to attend.
- **Christmas Devotionals** are available to take on the long table. One per family.
- **Sign up sheet** on the welcome desk for those willing to make a dessert for the Christmas program on Dec. 8. Please bring a dessert in a jelly roll or 9 x 13 pan.
- **The Christmas Program** - Dec. 8, 5 p.m. Coffee/desserts served following the program in the fellowship hall. Makes plans to attend.

Advance Notice – Mark your Calendars!

- Sun., Dec. 22 - there will be **no evening worship service**.
- Sun., Dec. 22 & 29 – **there will be no Catechism & Sunday School classes**
- Wed., Dec. 25, 9:30 am - **Annual Christmas Day Service** will be held.
- Sun., Dec. 29 - we will have our **regular am & pm worship services**.
- Wed., Jan. 1, 2025 – there will be **no New Year's Day service**.
- Sun., Jan. 5, 2025 – **Catechism & Sunday School Classes** resume.

NICSTO – Please consider a contribution to SCS through NICSTO helping us reach our \$71,000 goal for tuition assistance. NICSTO contributions due **Dec. 1**. Contributions are vital for affordability to many of our families through this tuition assistance program. ?'s, call Marlin Schoonhoven at Sheldon Christian School.

Unity Middle School Open House – Mon., Nov. 25, 7-8:30 p.m. All middle school students/parents are invited. Meet in Knight Ctr. 7-7:30 pm., break into sections.

Explore Western – Tues., Nov. 19, 7 p.m. Families w/students are invited to attend our fall showcase. Our goal is to share an authentic, relational, & enjoyable experience for prospective families as they learn about “Who We Are” & “What We Do” at Western Christian. If you plan to attend, have ?'s, or would rather schedule an individual tour, contact Brad Vis (605) 359-5704 brad.vis@westernchristianhs.com.

Community Announcements:

- **Sheldon Free Unity Meal** – Mon., Nov. 18, 5:30-6:30 p.m. You are invited to join us for a **free meal and groceries to take home** at the Living Water Com. Ch.
- **Red Cross Blood Drive** – Fri., Dec. 6, 10 AM – 4 PM at 1st CRC in Sheldon. Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter:SheldonIA to schedule an appt. Walk-ins welcome! Every 2 seconds someone needs blood.
- **Christmas Bake Sale** for Conquering Cancer 4 O'Brien County Sat., Dec. 7, 9 a.m. at the Sheldon Hy-Vee. Donations of baked goods are welcome. All available for a free will donation. We are usually sold out by noon.
- **Medicare Open Enrollment ends Dec. 7** – SHIIP counselors are available to help you with your Medicare Part D & Medicare Advantage plans. Those plans change every year. Your current plan may not be the most cost-effective plan for you in 2025. Volunteer SHIIP Counselors provide free, unbiased, objective info. They can determine your most cost-effective plan and help you enroll. To set up an appointment O'Brien County residents call (712) 957-5579, Sioux County residents call (712) 722-8137, Lyon/Osceola County residents call 800-351-4664.
- **The Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies (AADAS) 2025 Conference**, Hope College, Holland, MI, June 26-28. **Theme: Post-WWII Dutch Immigration to North America** – We are looking for immigrants and their kids to research/assemble their individual/family immigration stories, while we can. What events/things stand out in your mind? Does your family still have items from the Netherlands and why? Get out those letters, photos, and immigration artifacts; talk to those who shared your experiences to affirm/test your recollections; compare your immigrant journey/life against published immigration accounts. How is your family story both personal and representative? We are also looking for research papers on topics related to the conference theme. Possible topics are listed in the Call for Papers, together with other info., on the AADAS website: <https://dutch-americans.org>. Submit an abstract (250 words) of your memoir or research paper to henk.aay@gmail.com before Feb. 1, 2025

November 17, 2024

Morning Worship – Pastor Brian Dunn

9:30 AM

November 17, 2024

Evening Worship – Pastor Brian Dunn

5:00 PM

Opening Service

Call to Worship – Psalm 16 - Responsive

Opening Prayer

*Opening Hymn: **“My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone”**

*God’s Greeting/Mutual Greeting

*Song of Praise: **“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”**

Service of Reconciliation

God’s Will for Life – Exodus 20:1-17

Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon – Isaiah 1:16-18

Children’s Message

Service of the Word

Song of Preparation: **“How Firm a Foundation”**

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading: **Genesis 3:1-19**

Sermon Title: **“The Promise of A Redeemer”**

Prayer for Application

*Song of Praise: **“In Christ Alone”**

Service of Dedication

Congregational Prayer

Offering

*Song of Dedication: **“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty” vs. 1-3**

*Benediction

*Doxology: **“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty” vs. 4**

**Please stand, if able.*

We Gather to Worship

Call to Worship – Hebrews 10:15-18

Silent Prayer

*Opening Hymn: **“The God of Abraham Praise”**

*God’s Greeting

Responsive Affirmation of Faith: **Article 11 Belgic Confession**

*Song of Praise: **“Holy Spirit, Truth Divine”**

Pastoral Prayer

We Hear God’s Word

Hymn of Preparation: **“Spirit of the Living God”**

Scripture Passage: **Romans 8:9-11**

Sermon Title: **“The Spirit is God”**

Prayer of Application

We Respond in Faith

*Song of Dedication: **“Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God” vs. 1-2**

*Benediction/Blessing

*Doxology: **“Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God” vs. 3**

**Please stand, if able.*