

A lit candle is the central focus, surrounded by vibrant red poinsettia leaves and green foliage. Pinecones and small white flowers are visible at the bottom. The background is a deep red with a vertical white stripe.

HE IS

Christ
THE
Lord

LUKE 2:11

First Reformed Church

December 23, 2018

Merry Christmas!

Christmas is a time to reflect and celebrate our Savior's birth;
A special time to join together and rejoice that He came to earth!

A sincere welcome to all who have joined us today for worship.

A nursery is available in the lower level of the church.
Children's bulletins, children's activity bags and large print bulletins
are available at the back of the sanctuary.

An usher would be happy to assist you with these items.

Worship Service Participants

	<u>This Week (December 23)</u>	<u>Next Week (December 30)</u>
Greeters	Ron & Henri Raith	Ron & Diane Schaalma
Ushers	Zander Disbrow Bill Eichstadt Kevin Van Buren	Youth Group
Door Greeters		
Upstairs	Larry & Mary Navis	Kevin Van Buren
Downstairs East Door	John Nyhuis	Jeff Freriks
Nursery	Sarah Lemmenes	Jenny Petersen Claire Petersen
Elders Greeting	Bill Eichstadt Elton Ter Beest Steve Towne	BJ DeMaa Ron Schaalma Wayne Tavs
Soundboard	Kurt De Vries	
Power Point	Nicole and Austin Lang	Kaylin DeMaa

December Schedules

Hospital: Steve Towne

Flowers: Kim Perry

Transportation: Jon & Winky Dobbratz

Library: Donna Freriks

Our Vision

Seeking God - Nurturing One Another - Reaching Others For Christ

Our Mission

Our mission as a body of believers is to grow God's Kingdom through spiritual growth, loving and caring fellowship and sharing the hope and joy of God's grace with our community.
(Matthew 28:18-20)

Opportunities This Week

Sunday:

Prayer Time: Please join Pastor Barry 15 minutes before the service for prayer. We would love to have you join us for a brief time of prayer before the service. We will meet in the chapel by the grandfather clock at 8:45 am.

Sunday School: Classes will not meet this week or next week.

Monday:

Christmas Eve Worship Service: 7:00 pm.

Wednesday:

XYZ: We will not meet this week.

Awana: We will not meet on December 26 or January 2. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you when Club resumes on January 9, 2019.

Jr. High Youth Group: We will not meet this week.

Sr. High Youth Group: We will not meet this week.

Sr. Choir Practice: We will not meet this week.

Thursday:

Bell Choir Practice: We will not meet this week.

Friday:

Youth Group Lock-In: 4:00 - 11:00 pm in the Youth Room.

Saturday:

Men's' Huddle: We will not meet this week.

Congregational News

Snacks for Lock-In: The Youth Group will be having a Lock-In on Friday, December 28. If you can provide some snacks like chips, cookies, or bars, please contact Kristin Braaksma at 920-296-8478 or youth@firstreformedwaupun.com.

Food Pantry: First Reformed donated 32½ pounds of items to the Waupun Food Pantry. There is a need at this time for toilet paper, cake mixes, syrup, jello and pudding. Donated items can be placed in the box in the entryway.

Office Hours: Pastor Barry will be on vacation this week. Matt Hofman will be leading our worship service next Sunday. Also Sherry will be in the office limited hours this week.

Nursery Need: We are in great need of some leadership and volunteering in our Sunday morning nursery program. We have a sign-up in the entryway if you are interested. This is a vital ministry for our church. We need to make sure we are supporting our young parents by providing a safe space for their young children to go when needed.

Greeter Needed: There is one open slot in the 2019 Door Greeter Schedule. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact the church office. You would be asked to greet on Sunday mornings at an entrance door approximately five times throughout the year.

Prayer Chain Signup: If you wish to be on the 2019 prayer chain list, please sign-up on the sheet in the entryway by December 23. When you sign-up indicate if you would like to be contacted by phone (either day or evening) or if you would like to be contacted by email.

Fellowship Time: Many people enjoy a time of fellowship following the worship service. If you would be able to help with serving refreshments during that time, please sign-up in the entryway for a Sunday that fits your schedule. All drinks, cookies and supplies are provided.

Disability Advocate: The RCA Disability Concerns Office is looking for a disability advocate at First Reformed. This is a point person within the church that maybe wants to do a little more for those with disabilities. No, it's not a huge commitment. No, it's not super time-consuming. No, you do not need to have all the answers to everything disability-related. Head to <https://www.rca.org/disability-awareness> to find out more about disability concerns in the RCA. If you are interested in taking on this role, talk with Pastor Barry and he will get you in touch with Sonrisa Cortes with the RCA Disability Concerns Office.

Crop Walk: The Crop Walk in Waupun has taken place in early October on a Saturday to raise money for the Waupun Food Pantry and for global hunger needs. For 2019 and 2020, First Reformed is being asked to lead it. The main responsibilities would include notifying area churches of the date, planning the walking route and planning a fellowship time before and after the walk. If you are interested in helping to lead this, let Pastor Barry know or leave a message in the office.

Contributions: December 30 is the final Sunday of 2018 and will be your last opportunity to make a tax deductible gift for this year.

Offering Envelopes: Your 2019 offering envelopes were placed in your mailboxes. Because your individual number changes from year to year, **it is very important that you do not** use your new (2019) envelopes in 2018. If anyone was missed and you would like to receive offering envelopes, please contact Lori Flier or the church office at 324-2321.

Team Sign-Up: Please sign-up in the entryway if you are interested in serving on a team for 2019. Thank you for sharing your gifts!

Congregational Care

Thank You: Thanks for the memories in the shape of a beautiful poinsettia plant that was delivered to my door. My wish is for everyone to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Don Leisten.

Thank You: I would like to thank everyone who has sent me cards or has stopped in to visit or just say hi - it is all very much appreciated. Merry Christmas! Pearl Vande Zande.

Thank You: Thank you to the church for the beautiful poinsettia plant. Your kindness is very much appreciated. Merry Christmas! Grace Frens.

Thank You: Thank you so much to all who sent cards and offered up prayers following my hip replacement surgery. I am feeling much better. Steve Auchtung.

Thank You: Thank you much for the lovely poinsettia plant and also the Christmas cards I received. I sure enjoyed the nice visit I had with Rose and Jerry Riel. God bless you all. Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year! Phyllis Pluim.

Thank You FRC Prayer Warriors! I rolled into the operating room on December 5th without any concern for the outcome. Thank you Pastor Barry for all your visits, including coming down to visit right after returning from your uncle's funeral. Appreciated were the many calls, cards of encouragement, best wishes from our church family, visits and the constant flow of text humor from Howie (even though it hurt to laugh). The love and support was just overwhelming. Thank you again - John and Karin Nyhuis.

Christmas Offering

The Christmas Offering will be divided between three families with medical needs:

- ◆ Travis Mulder (Jeremy Mulder's brother) is undergoing treatments for a rare form of leukemia. He recently suffered a decline with unexplained symptoms and is hospitalized for treatment and testing.
- ◆ Mike Beekman's stepson Dylan (step-grandson of Wally & Linda Beekman) was in a car accident earlier this fall. He has been in a coma since the accident but recently had the ventilator removed. He is being cared for in a specialized care facility.
- ◆ Sheila Wilkum (granddaughter of Don & Ann Boss) was born with congenital heart disease. She was free of any issues for over 30 years, when she collapsed while on vacation and was med-flighted back to the U.S. for emergency surgery and will need further surgery.

Waupun Food Pantry Fact - Did You Know?

Every Wednesday afternoon from 2:00 - 3:00 pm, there is a Bible Study offered to the public at the food pantry. Following that, there is a coffee/tea informal social time from 3:00 - 4:00 pm. In early January, you will learn how we, as a church, can minister to this opportunity.

Why? The Bible says, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I will be also" (Matthew 18:20). Additionally, we are to make a purposeful effort to provide meaningful Christian worship, teaching, nurturing, and fellowship that will meet the spiritual needs of the young and disconnected in our community.

Sunday Worship Service

December 23, 2018

9:00 am

Advent Candle:

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. -
the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him; the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of power; the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord -
and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

We light these candles as a sign of our waiting and hope for the coming Christ.

Prelude - Jon Schmaltz

Greeting

***Songs**

#272 - "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

#271 - "Joyful, Joyful We Adore You"

Law of God

Sr. Choir - "O What a Story"

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20 (page 1590)

Video: Shepherd

Message: First Christmas - Shepherd

Prayer

Offering

*Benediction

*Song #258: "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

*Please stand if you are able

**All songs led by the Praise Team

Church Contact Information

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