

First Christian Reformed Church

801 15th Ave

Fulton, IL 61252

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***Growing Closer to God
Through Service & Love***

Pastor Michael-Email: mhooke01@gmail.com

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First CRC Fulton
August 24, 2025 - 9:00am
If The Lord Had Not Been On Our Side

We Gather in Praise and Worship

Prelude: Piano

Welcome: Bruce

Call To Worship: Based on Psalm 27; John 4:23

Leader: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

All: The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

Leader: We desire to live in God's house and to seek God
in his holy temple.

**All: We have come with shouts of joy, to sing and to
make music to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

All: Teach us your ways and make straight our paths in this
hour of worship and always.

God's Greeting: Pastor Rich Bawinkel

Mutual Greeting:

Worship Through Song:

He Has Made Me Glad

Hallelujah Praise Jehovah – Blue Hymnal 304

A Shield About Me

Announcements: Bruce

Congregational Prayer: Bruce

Offering: General Fund & Unity Christian School Boosters

Worship Through Song:

King of Kings - Sheet Music

Who is on the Lord's Side – Praise Hymnal 421

I Know Who Holds Tomorrow – Praise Hymnal 341

We Prepare For & Hear God's Word

Scripture: Psalm 124

¹ *If the Lord had not been on our side—
let Israel say—*

² *if the Lord had not been on our side
when people attacked us,*

³ *they would have swallowed us alive
when their anger flared against us;*

⁴ *the flood would have engulfed us,
the torrent would have swept over us,*

⁵ *the raging waters
would have swept us away.*

⁶ *Praise be to the Lord,
who has not let us be torn by their teeth.*

⁷ *We have escaped like a bird
from the fowler's snare;
the snare has been broken,
and we have escaped.*

⁸ *Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.*

Sermon: If The Lord Had Not Been On Our Side - Pastor
Rich Bawinkel

WE DEPART WITH GOD'S BLESSING

Blessing: Pastor Rich Bawinkel

Parting Song: New Doxology

Announcements

Welcome to Pastor Rich Bawinkel who is bringing us God's word this morning. We look forward to worshiping with you once again. Thank you for sharing your talents with us;.

Food Pantry – This is our scheduled week for donating items to the Fulton Food Pantry. This month the suggested donation is Peanut Butter & Tuna.

Please send prayer requests to mhooke01@gmail.com or call 847-513-2809.

Please send *all other* bulletin information to FirstCRCFulton@live.com by Thursday at 7:00pm.

August Birthdays

2 Chris Roos	15 Jason Vander Eide
3 Audrey Balk	18 Celia Behrens
3 Isabelle Fletcher	19 Andrew Zajicek
10 Lynell Breidenbach	20 Joseph Zajicek
10 Mary Medenblik	21 Brenda Bousman
14 Pam Bielema	24 Teresa Dellit
14 Sara Burns	25 April Prins
15 Dale Schaver	28 Holly Bielema
	31 Joshua Bielema

August Anniversaries

3 Sam & Ruby Dykstra	9 Bill & Mary Medenblik
5 Lauren & Jeriann Medenblik	27 Roger & Gayle Dykstra

Deacons' News

Offerings Received 8/17/25:	<u>General Fund</u>
	Budget: \$2,180.00
Benevolence: \$168.75	Received: <u>\$4,972.66</u>
	Over: \$2,792.66

Offerings Today: General Fund & UCSB

Offerings 8/31/25: General Fund & Fulton Food Pantry

Please place your offerings in the plates as they are passed.

CRC News

Hymn Text Contest – Calvin University will host an Anniversary Worship Celebration in honor of its 150th year on Sunday, March 29, 2026, at the Calvin University Covenant Fine Arts Center for community worship. You can help us celebrate by participating in our 150th Anniversary Hymn Text Contest! The planning committee invites hymnwriters to

submit a hymn text to be sung at the worship service; submissions must be sent via email by November 1, 2025. The winner of this contest will receive a \$1,500 award.

Hope Beyond the Headlines - Media outlets often move on quickly after covering the initial impacts of conflict, natural disasters, and other devastating events—leaving behind stories of loss, displacement, and communities struggling with hunger, poverty, and hopelessness. Yet God’s promise in Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us that He has plans for a hope and a future. World Renew, together with our Christian partners and as a member of the Integral Alliance, continues to walk alongside communities long after the cameras are gone—helping restore hope and rebuild lives. Now participating in the third Neglected Crises campaign, World Renew is calling for collective action to support people affected by long-term, complex, and overlooked crises—in Madagascar, Sudan, Haiti, and beyond. Your gift can help extend God’s hope to places where suffering persists long after public attention fades. Learn more or give today at: worldrenew.net/global-food-crisis

Prayer for Our Immigrant Neighbors - Over the past few months, many Christian Reformed Church leaders and members have been deeply impacted by the increased immigration enforcement activities taking place across the United States. We are asking every CRC congregation to set aside a special time of prayer for our immigrant brothers and sisters during worship on Sunday, Sept. 7. All congregations and members are also invited to join a virtual prayer vigil on Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 7:00 p.m. EST at [youtube.com/crcna](https://www.youtube.com/crcna)

Thrive Faith Formation Tip – In the book *Unsettling Truths*, theologian and professor Soong-Chan Rah writes: “Repentance is not just sorrow and confession, it is the turning around of

wrong behavior towards right and just action. Repentance from sinful corporate behavior therefore requires systemic change.” Write down how you are going to pair your acts of repentance from “sinful corporate behaviors,” like racism, with acts of systemic change this week. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

Community News

The Chitans will be on the outdoor stage at Spring Valley Reformed Church, 10960 Spring Valley Road, Fulton IL, on Sunday, August 24th at 6:00 PM! Come and join us for an evening of praise and worship. A free-will offering will be taken. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be moved indoors. The Chitans consist of five siblings, Kaiziah, 24, Kayandra, 23, Jesse, 21, Jayden, 18, and Karlainah, 15. The siblings have been singing together for eleven years. They and their parents, Layne and Karen, have been taking their music ministry on the road for the past seven years. Their music encompasses Southern Gospel, Contemporary Christian, Black Gospel, Caribbean, and traditional Hymns. Incorporating various styles in their concerts is what makes this unique blending of these styles truly special. Although they are young, their ministry has taken them throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean. While ministering in churches, schools, civic and cultural gatherings, hospitals, prisons, or on the streets, the heartbeat of this family group is to point souls to Jesus Christ.

The Mulkins Family will be on the outdoor stage at Spring Valley Reformed Church, 10960 Spring Valley Road, Fulton IL, on Sunday, August 31st at 6:00 PM! We will be serving Root Beer Floats after the concert! Come and join us for an evening of praise and worship. A free-will offering will be taken. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be moved indoors. The Mulkins Family exists to glorify God through

their music and evangelism. As a young family, they continue to develop their instrument skills and singing harmony to deliver a fun, uplifting, and God-honoring gospel concert. People leave their concerts feeling encouraged and inspired. Their music style is Southern and Bluegrass Gospel. The Mulkins Family consists of Rick and Cindy Mulkins, with their nine children in age order: Ruby, Isaac, Noah, Grace, Hazel, Jacob, Caleb, Ezra and Esther. Currently, five out of their eight children sing and play instruments. When Rick gets asked why he doesn’t sing with the family, he smiles and jokingly replies, “I can’t carry a tune. The only thing I can carry is the sound equipment into the church.” Even though Rick doesn’t sing, he still plays an integral role in their music ministry as he interweaves the Gospel and heartfelt testimonies and stories of God’s grace and goodness between songs.

Roseland Christian Ministries annual banquet – Join us for a fundraising banquet on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at Georgios Banquets in Orland Park. There is no ticket fee but a free will offering will be taken. RSVPs are required. Call 773.264.5665. Your support helps us meet the needs of the Roseland community.

Weekly Calendar		
Today	Sunday Worship	9:00 am
Elders Meeting	Thursday, August 28 th	6:00 pm
Deacons Meeting		6:30 pm
Council Meeting		6:45 pm

	August 24th	August 31st
Recorder & Sound	Paul T.	Joe
Nursery Attendant	Celia B.	Sara B.
Snack Provider	Brenda A.	Lynda V.
Server	Stacy S.	Carman F.