

First Christian Reformed Church

801 15th Ave
Fulton, IL 61252
815-589-3790



*Growing Closer to God
Through Service & Love*

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First CRC Fulton
April 5, 2026 - 9:00am
“The Reality of the Resurrection”

We Gather in Praise and Worship

Special Music: Brenda A., Beth C., and Ann D.

Prelude: I Serve a Risen Saviour

Low in the Grave

Welcome: Bruce B.

Announcements: Bruce B.

Call To Worship: Lynda

Leader: He is Risen

All: He is Risen Indeed!

Leader: Christ is Risen.

All: Christ is Risen indeed!

God’s Greeting: Brother Lain

Mutual Greeting

Worship Through Song:

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

The Power of the Cross

Living Hope

Congregational Prayer: Brother Lain

Worship Through Song:

See What a Morning

My Redeemer Lives

Across the Lands

We Prepare For & Hear God’s Word

Scripture: Matthew 28 (Pew Bible Pg 1126)

Sermon: “The Reality of the Resurrection” – Brother Lain

WE DEPART WITH GOD'S BLESSING

Parting Song: Victory in Jesus, (Christ has won the Victory)

Blessing: Brother Lain

Announcements

Today we welcome Lain Vandermyde. We look forward to worshipping with you today. Thank you for sharing your love and talent with our congregation.

Easter Lilies are given in memory of:

Roger Simon and Jake & Florence Balk from Bonnie Simon.

Angela McGinty & Bob Jackson from the family.

Alberta & Elmer Vander Eide from Michelle & Joe Vander

Eide and Rollie & Lynda Vander Eide.

Sebert & Phyllis Dykstra from the family.

Harlan & Darrell Tiesman from the family.

Elmer Vander Eide from the family.

Carl Vander Eide from Wilma Vander Eide.

Merle & Carol Bielema, Brad Lown, & Bernard Groharing from the family.

Family from the Mathey/Ottens family.

Attention Ladies: Please join us on Saturday April 11 from 11am-1pm in the church basement for a Baby Shower! Let's welcome baby Warren and bestow a flood of blessings on him and new Mommy, Rachel! You can find Rachel's baby registry at Target.com. See the table at the back of church for additional information. Please RSVP to Sara Burns at 563-219-5164 by Thursday April 9. We hope you can come enjoy a wonderful time of food, fellowship, and festivities with us!

Communion and Potluck will be on April 19th. Think Spring! Wear your "springy" colors to church - pink, yellow, light blue, light green...

"Peace Beyond Measure" Ladies Retreat at Grace Camp at the Peter Retreat Center on Saturday, April 25 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM, Doors open at 9:00 AM, Cost: \$20, Lunch & Beverages Included. Join us for a day of renewal, encouragement, and Christ-centered connection. Featured Speaker: Michelle Diercks, Author/Christian Life Coach. This event is open to all women & organized by the Women of Grace. **There's still time to register - call or text Beth C. at 563-219-2370 by 4/18.**

Dutch Days will be on May 1st - 2nd. We would like to get the church involved. Please share any ideas you have with Beth.

Please send prayer requests to stacy_stephenson_1980@yahoo.com and all bulletin information to FirstCRCFulton@live.com and secretary.fultonfirstcrc@gmail.com by Thursday at 6p.

Deacons' News

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|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Offerings Received 3/29/26: | <u>General Fund</u> |
| | Budget: \$2,166.00 |
| The Pregnancy Center: \$218.00 | Received: <u>\$2005.00</u> |
| | Under: \$161.00 |

Offerings Today: General Fund & Building Fund

4/12/2026 Offerings: General Fund & Benevolence

Please place your offering in the plates at the back of the sanctuary.

Community Announcements

Self-Help Enterprises Pancake Breakfast April 11th, 7am – noon, at 2300 W. Lefevre Road, Sterling, IL 61081

40th Annual Walk for Them Both Fundraiser Saturday, April 25. Goal: \$40,000. Meet @ The Pregnancy Center office at 240 N. Bluff Blvd., Ste 105, Clinton. Coffee & refreshments will be served! Registration at 8:15am, Walk at 9:00am. Contact Nancy at nancy@pregnancycenterclinton.org or 563-242-6628

Men's breakfast, speaker and worship at the Church of the Open Door in Clinton, 8am, the first Saturday of every month.

CRC News

Thrive Faith Formation Tip – Happy Easter! We now move from Lent into Eastertide, a season of extended celebration of Jesus' resurrection. This week spend some time reading and reflecting on 2 Corinthians 5:14–21. What part of the passage connects with you the most? Create a reminder of Jesus' death and resurrection by writing a few words from this passage, such as a prayer of gratitude to God, or by drawing a picture that reflects Jesus' work on the cross. Place your reminder in plain site as a reminder throughout Eastertide to continue your Easter celebration. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

Pray for Synod 2026 - Starting May 3, and for 40 days leading up to Synod 2026, pray with CRC members, leaders, and friends for God's presence and guidance for the CRC and this year's synod gathering. Learn more and find prayer resources at network.crcna.org/topic/spiritual-formation/prayer/40-days-prayer-synod-2026, including a link to sign up to receive daily emails throughout the 40 days with prayers written by people from across the denomination.

| | <u>April 5th</u> | <u>April 12th</u> | <u>April 19th</u> |
|---------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Pastor | Lain Vandermyde | John Byker | John Byker |
| Sound | David D. | Paul T. | Joe V. |
| Nursery | Ana T. | Lynell B. | Michelle V. |
| Snack | Sara B. | Lynda V. | Lori B. |
| Server | Sara & Eric B. | Marissa W. | Lori B. |
| Planner | Lynda V. | Beth C. | Brenda A. |

Weekly Calendar

Today

Sunday Worship

9:00 am

Faithful, Yet Forgetful

“Why do you look for the living among the dead?”

During the Lenten Season, we journeyed together through the third and the longest canonical Gospel, the Gospel according to Luke. Then, on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, we read and reflected upon Luke’s account of Jesus’ crucifixion and burial. Now, today, on Easter Sunday, let us be led by Luke with “the women” to the tomb in which Jesus’ body was laid by Joseph of Arimathea, a tomb “in which no one had previously been laid” (Luke 24:53).

Luke recounts that it was on the first day of the week (i.e., Sunday), very early in the morning, when “the women” carrying spices and perfumes came to the tomb where Jesus had been laid on that harrowing Friday evening, a mere day and a half earlier (v. 1; cf. Luke 23:56). “The women” in view are spoken of more fully in v. 10. Seemingly, these are at least some of the same women who accompanied Jesus over the sweep of his earthly ministry (8:1-3) and who stuck with him to the grisly end, mourning and wailing along the way (23:26-31).

Upon arrival at the tomb, they found that the stone had been rolled away, but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus (24:2- 3). Their perplexity at this discovery gives way to unbridled fear when “two men in dazzling clothes” suddenly appear (24:4-5a). The two men not only appear to the women out of nowhere, but they also speak to the women. They ask

them a probing, leading question, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?” (24:5b).

On the heels of this question, they declare, “He is not here, but is risen!” (24:6a). Furthermore, these men call upon the women to remember that Jesus had spoken regularly (since the time they were together in Galilee) about that which had recently transpired before their very eyes. If unprecedented, Jesus’ arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection should not have been unanticipated (24:6b-7).

Subsequently, Luke reports that the women went and told the Eleven and “all the others” what they had seen and heard. With the partial exception of Peter, however, their words, which were received and regarded as “an idle tale,” fell on deaf ears and hard hearts (24:9-12).

In concluding this devotional, we will do well to note and to linger upon the five words (in both Greek and English) that comprise 24:8, lest they fall through the textual cracks.

Between the two men speaking and the women returning home from the tomb, Luke adds, “Then they remembered his words.” Their recollection of Jesus’ words amid their sorrow and shock gave them both the ability and capacity to continue to follow and to be faithful to the one who was faithful unto death and who was raised—and lives—by the power of God (see 2 Corinthians 13:4). This Easter may we also remember and rejoice in “this Jesus God raised up” (Acts 2:32).

Our all-loving and all-powerful God, we are so grateful on this Easter Sunday morning that you did not allow your Holy One to undergo decay (Acts 2:27, 31) and that you continue by the power of the Holy Spirit to give us life, both in the here and the

hereafter, through the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25), even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Members Only: *There is now a “Members Only” section on the website where you can view church newsletters, pulpit supply and volunteer list, and more. The password is on the bulletin board at the back of the church to protect member safety.*