

First Christian Reformed Church

801 15th Ave

Fulton, IL 61252

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*Growing Closer to God
Through Service & Love*

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Facebook: Fulton 1st Christian Reformed Church

First CRC Fulton
December 3, 2023 - 9:00am
Advent Week 1: Hope –
The Women of Christmas: Elizabeth

We Gather in Praise and Worship

Prelude: What a Glorious Night

Welcome

Announcements

Call To Worship:

God's Greeting:

Mutual Greeting

Lighting of the 1st Advent Candle - Hope

Worship Through Song:

Joy to the World

O Come O Come Emmanuel

Congregational Prayer

Offering

Worship in Song:

O Come All Ye Faithful

Go Tell it on the Mountain

We Prepare For & Hear God's Word

Scripture: Luke 1: 24-25, 39-45, 57-66

²⁴After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. ²⁵“The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

⁵⁷When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy. ⁵⁹On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, ⁶⁰but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John." ⁶¹They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who has that name." ⁶²Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. ⁶³He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John." ⁶⁴Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. ⁶⁶Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him.

Sermon: The Women of Christmas: Elizabeth
Prayer

WE DEPART WITH GOD'S BLESSING

Parting Song: He Reigns

Blessing: Pastor Michael

Announcements

The beautiful poinsettias are in memory of:

Merle & Carol Bielema from the family

Brad Lown from the family

Sid & Myrna Dykstra & Arthur & Eileen Thompson from

Paul & Sheila Thompson

Sebert & Phyllis Dykstra from the family

Elmer & Alberta Vander Eide from the family

Paul & Wilma Ottens & Janet Mathey from the family

Barb & Gene Kessler from the family

John & Vie Atherton from the family

Jake & Florence Balk & Roger Simon from Bonnie Simon

Angela McGinty & Robert Jackson from the family

Ken Balk & Stephanie Balk from Audrey Balk & family

December 3rd Congregational Meeting: The annual congregational meeting will be held *today*, following the worship service. The 2024 Budget will be presented for approval and new Council members will be elected as follows: For the office of Elder, one to be elected from these nominees; Brenda Atherton, Joan Jackson, Angie Vander Eide, and Roger Dykstra. For the office of Deacon, two to be elected from these nominees; Joe Vander Eide, Beth Caven, and Amy Dykstra. Celia Behrens is the outgoing Elder and Marissa Wilkinson and David Dykstra are the outgoing Deacons. We thank the nominees for their willingness to serve.

Preparatory Sunday as we look forward to celebrating the sacrament of Holy Communion next Sunday morning. Let

us examine our hearts and lives this week as we prepare to come to the Lord's table.

Potluck - Our December 10th potluck theme is "Together for the Holidays" – bring leftovers or test your new holiday recipes on the congregation. Leftover barbecue sandwiches from the soup supper will be served.

Please send prayer requests to Pastor Michael at **mhooke01@gmail.com**.

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

December Birthdays

1 Collin Burns	18 Brenda Atherton
1 Genevieve Tiesman	21 Sheila Thompson
1 Tucker Smith	27 Paige Vander Eide
5 Kelly Dykstra	27 Ana Ton
6 Rollie Vander Eide	28 Matt Smith
9 Brenda Huizenga	28 Rachel Dykstra
9 Jake Smith	30 Stacy Stephenson
	31 Ben Smith

December Anniversaries

28 Albert & Gloria Wiebenga

Deacons' News

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

Offerings Today: General Fund & Building Fund

Next Sunday: General Fund & Benevolence

Offerings Received 11/26/23

General Fund

Budget: \$2,042.00

UCSB: \$164.00

Received: \$6661.63

Over: \$4,619.63

Through the end of October, we are approximately \$4,810.47 under budget for General Fund offerings.

Community News

Felix Adler Children's Discovery Center – Enjoy milk and cookies with Santa on Dec 8, & Dec 17. The 11th Annual Family New Year's Eve party is on Dec 31st

Highland Community College, Highland Youth Choir and Chorale will perform at the *Choral Holiday Concert* on Sunday, December 3rd, both at the Ferguson Fine Arts Center at the HCC campus. *Reflections of Light: Christmas Around the World* will feature the Chamber Singers, Royal Scots, and the the Galena United Methodist Church Choir on Saturday, December 9th at the Galena United Methodist Church in Galena, IL.

Fulton PD Toy Drive was held in the 1st CRC parking lot yesterday. New, unwrapped may still be donated in the lobby of City Hall until Friday, December 8 at 4:00pm.

“Away in the Basement” a church basement ladies Christmas, a hit musical comedy, will be performed at the John and Alice Butler Hall, Heritage Center, at the University of Dubuque on Tuesday, December 5th, at 2:00pm. Visit www.Dbq.edu/heritagecenter for more information. Group tickets are \$26 - \$44, call 563-589-3432

The Morrison CRC will hold its last official service on Sunday, December 24, 2023 at 8:45 a.m. We are in the process of selling our property to Crossroads Church. Continue to lift this process in prayer as we navigate uncharted waters with sadness, but yet with hope and joy as the Crossroads leadership teams are very excited about the opportunities their new home will offer them.

Paul’s Missionary Journeys in Greece (May 31 - June 11, 2024): Travel by motor coach (7 days) and cruise ship (3 days) to sites connected with Paul’s second and third missionary journeys, as well as visit other major sites of biblical, archaeological, and cultural interest. Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading Pauline scholar, hosts this inspirational tour. For more information, contact Dr. Weima at 616-328-3110 or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

	Today	Next Week
Recorder & Sound	Joe V	David D
Nursery Attendant	Celia B	Sara B
Snack Provider	Sara B	Potluck
Server	Sara B	Potluck

Weekly Calendar		
Today	Sunday Worship	9:00 am
	Congregational Meeting	10:20 am