

Luke 1:57-80
Series: The Dawn of Redeeming Grace
“Praise the Lord for His Salvation”



Main Point: When God moves us to see Christmas as the fulfillment of His Word, we will praise Him for the salvation that has come in Christ.

I. How God Moves Us to Praise Him at Christmas (1:57-66)

II. Why We Should Give Praise to God at Christmas (1:67-80)

a. For Salvation from Our Enemies & Fulfillment of God’s Covenant (v. 67-75)

b. For Salvation from Our Sin & Giving Light to Our Darkness (v. 76-80)

December 17, 2023

Lauren Danforth

Prelude
Congregational Sharing
*Greeting One Another

APPROACH TO GOD

*Call to Worship Num. 24:16-17; Mal. 4:2; Psalm 105
*Song of Praise
Angels From the Realms of Glory
*Prayer of Praise
*Song of Praise
O Come O Come Emmanuel

RENEWAL IN CHRIST

Confession of Sin
Assurance of Forgiveness Colossians 1:12-14
*Song of Assurance
King of Kings

THE WORD OF GOD

The Sacrament of Baptism
Children’s Church (3–5-year-olds)
Scripture Reading Luke 1:57-80
Sermon “Praise the Lord for His Salvation”

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RESPONSE TO GOD

Offertory Prayer
Song of Response *In Christ Alone*
*Affirmation of Faith WSC Q. 26
Congregational Prayer
*Benediction
*Doxology
*Postlude

Lauren Danforth

*Congregation standing if able

FAITH REFORMED CHURCH

Rev. Zach Tarter, Pastor Jon Damkot, Youth Director
243 S 4th St, Cedar Grove, WI 53013 920.668.6725
www.faithreformedchurch.org

Our Worship

As we gather to worship this morning through faith in Christ, we are entering into conversation with God as He speaks in His Word and is with us by the Spirit. Our worship service has an intentional movement that focuses on the Gospel:

- We begin with our **APPROACH TO GOD**, hearing a call to worship from His word and then responding to Him with songs and prayers of praise.
- We then have a time of **RENEWAL IN CHRIST** in which we confess our sins and hear His promise of forgiveness in His word and through song.
- Assured of His grace, we then listen to **THE WORD OF GOD** as it is preached from our passage for that day, and we all receive the sacrament of communion monthly as a “visible word” from God.
- After hearing the Word preached, we end our service with our **RESPONSE TO GOD**. We give offerings, affirm our faith, pray for needs in the congregation and world, and hear a blessing from God before singing a final praise to Him.

Through it all, God intends to bless us and change us by His grace so that we would go into the world to live for His glory. So let us come in humble faith, ready to hear and respond to our God and Savior.

Reflections

“God our Father, when we feel the cold darkness of the shadow of death, draw our minds and hearts from the sadness to our sin, that we may come to Jesus, your only Son, to be forgiven; and through him, who is the Light of the world, may we rejoice in sins forgiven and the sure and certain hope of death defeated. We ask it for Jesus’ sake. Amen” (Christopher Ash, *Repeat the Sounding Joy*, 86).

If you wish to reach Pastor Zach, you may dial the church office or reach him by cell phone at 920-212-5489. His office hours are Tuesday-Friday 9:30-5:30. If you are unable to reach Pastor Zach you may contact the Elder on call. The Elder on Call for December is Carl Velzke (920-917-0902).

Prayer Guide

Praises and Thanksgivings

Jesus Resurrection
Our living hope in Jesus

Petitions

That our state and nation would value life and protect life in the womb
For people to hear the gospel hope
A heart of submission to Christ
Spiritual wisdom and discernment
Commitment to be reading Scripture
Discipline and courage to obey
To be guided by Scripture, not culture
Courage to stand firm for the gospel
Our ministry in the PCA
Pastor Zach Tarter
Jon Damkot – Youth Director
BJ Hilbelink – Pastoral Assistant
Disciple making at Faith Reformed
Spiritual revival
Our government leaders
Our youth to grow in Christ
Those serving in the military
The unity of Cedar Grove churches
Those with addictions/in jail or prison
Our persecuted brothers & sisters

Health

Norm DeRuyter - will have surgery Tuesday to open up stents and improve circulation for his foot that has an infection.
Wayne Navis - is home and continues to get therapy
Ruth Ann Wieberdink – back has been some better, continue to pray for healing
Donna Caljouw –continued prayers as she continues to get treatment for her cancer
Linda Dykstra – prayers as she learns how to deal with the scarring of her liver.
Rich Dykstra – prayers as he is getting treatment for his prostate cancer
Larry Wieberdink – heart surgery went well, pray for continued healing
Edie Beernink – please be in prayer as she awaits some answers concerning what kind of oxygen she needs so she can get around more efficiently
Don Schreurs – moved to Pine Haven Oostburg Campus – room 115 prayers as he continues with therapy

Shut-ins

Neil Bruggink
Delores Droppers
Herb Dirkse – Cedar Grove Gardens, Building 2 – room 10

Mission & Outreach

Wycliffe Bible Translators – Todd & Darlene Voskuil
For our unchurched neighbors

Schedule

TODAY

Worship Service – 9:00 am

Sunday School/Christmas Program Practice - 10:30am

Children's Christmas Program – 5:00pm

Core “Free Week”

Monday – 6:00pm Worship Team Meeting

Tuesday – 12:00pm Care Connection Meeting at Luxembourg Cafe
- 6:00pm Session Meeting

Wednesday – 6:00 pm Connect -Christmas Party at Calvary Church
- 6:30 pm Quest
- 6:30 pm Prayer Group
- 7:45pm Men's Bible Study

Thursday – 1:00pm Women's Bible Study

UPCOMING EVENTS AT FAITH:

December 24 – Candlelight Service

Ushers for December: Ward Meinen, Glen Ten Dolle, Chris Konzak

Nursery for December 17: Nate Zimmermann & Ben Torrenga

Nursery for December 24: Emily Van Allen & Caleb Heinen

Refreshments for December: Care Group #6 (Shelli & Linda)

Greeters December 17 - **Narthex:** Bob & Doris DeRuyter
- **Great Room:** Jeff & Kim DeRuyter

Greeters December 24 – **Narthex:** Lloyd & Carol DeRuyter
- **Great Room:** Bob & Kelly Dirkse

Serving in the Military:

Jackson DeRuyter

*Pray for all our troops serving around the world

Family Life at Faith

The Cedar Grove Area Food Pantry served 34 families at the November Food Pantry. The next Food Pantry will be held on Thursday, January 11th. **Right now, we are low on cereal, canned vegetables & fruits, soup, and paper products.** Please check the expiration dates on your donations! If you could help us serve one month – please contact Faith Reformed Church (920-668-6725). Thank you for your generosity!

For Love INC in December, we will be collecting items listed on the Love INC Christmas Advent Calendar. You can pick that calendar up in the information center and return your items to the grey bin in the great room. For questions on your donations, please contact your Love, Inc Representative, Jodi Danforth (920-254-1385). Thank you.

Thank you to all those who have signed up to bring food for the Salvation Army meal the last few months. They have been very appreciative. December is full. However, there is now a **sign-up sheet for January and February** in the information center. If you have any questions, please see Wendy Wonser.

Thank you so much to the congregation for all the Christmas donations for community families in need. We are so thankful for all your generosity during this Christmas season.
Community ACTS Team



We invite all to join us for the **Christmas Eve Candlelight service** on Sunday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m.

For those of you doing the Reverse Advent Calendar for the Food Pantry, after you collect all your items, you can put them in the kitchen at church and someone will get them where they need to be. Thank you.

Family Life at Faith

EARLY PRICING HAS BEEN EXTENDED ONE MORE WEEK! Give the gift of God's heart for the nations!

If you have been feeling the tug on your heart to register for course, you have until Dec 24th at midnight, to register and receive the \$25 early bird discount! Don't forget to let your friends and family know you are registering. We have seen numerous friends take this class together and receive funds for Christmas presents to support taking this class! Visit Perspectives.org to register. Classes begin the week of January 8th at host site Crossroads Church in Sheboygan on Monday nights (contact Ara at ara.jackson@perspectives.org). Need based scholarships are available by contacting Dan Weiss from our church mission team.

Thank you to all the Care Group Leaders this past year for serving your Care Groups so well and taking the time to serve on Sunday mornings. We all appreciate your time and dedication. We will be organizing the Care Groups going into the new year and if you wish to have your name taken off as a Care Group Leader, please let Wendy Wonser know.

Information for the January newsletter is due Sunday, December 24.

Special Birthday in December: Neil Bruggink will turn 89 on December 24th.

Special Birthdays in January: Delores Bruggink will be 92 on January 2nd
Glen Ten Dolle will be 82 on January 2nd
Shirley Wieberdink will be 89 on January 6th
Edie Beernink will be 89 on January 23rd

Please check out the bulletin board in the Narthex to see updates and Christmas Blessings from some of our missionaries.

Youth News

CORE (Grades 6-12) - ***Tonight, December 17th*** each Core small group has a special event planned for "**Free Week!**" Check your texts or contact Jon or your small group leader if you don't know what your group has planned.

CONNECT Christmas Party (Grades 6-12) - **Wednesday, December 20th** students are invited to **Calvary OPC** (136 W Union Ave) from **6:00-7:30PM** for our Christmas party! Dinner will be served so come hungry.

QUEST (Grades 5K-5) - **Wednesday, December 20th** Quest will meet at **Faith Reformed** from **6:30-7:30PM**. Registration and games begin at 6:10.

CONNECT T-SHIRTS - If you ordered a shirt, please bring \$15 to the Connect Christmas party where we will be handing out the shirts.

HS FORT WINTER RETREAT - All high schoolers are invited to our annual weekend retreat at Crescent Lake Bible Camp from January 12-14, 2024. Forms including trip information can be found at the link, which can be turned in at Core, Connect or the outdoor dropbox at Faith before Wednesday, January 3rd. <https://www.faithreformedchurch.org/events/youth/>



The Children's Christmas Program is TODAY at 5pm. It is for all children 3 years old through 5th grade. Our last practice is today during the Sunday School hour.