

Luke 1:5-38
Series: The Dawn of Redeeming Grace
“Believe the Unbelievable”

Main point: Although we live in a barren and sinful world, Christmas promises new life to those who believe the unbelievable news of His Word & His Son.

I. Believe the Good News of God’s Sovereign Word (1:5-25)

- God’s Gracious Promise
- God’s Unbelievable Promise
- The Response of Unbelief

II. Believe the Good News of God’s Sovereign Son (1:26-38)

- God’s Gracious Promise
- God’s Unbelievable Promise
- The Response of Faith



December 3, 2023

Prelude
Congregational Sharing
*Greeting One Another

Jan Jerabek & Mary Holle

APPROACH TO GOD

From Isaiah 9
*Call to Worship
*Song of Praise
Joy to the World
*Prayer of Praise
*Song of Praise
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

RENEWAL IN CHRIST

Confession of Sin
Assurance of Forgiveness Philip. 2:6-8, Mark 10:45
*Song of Assurance
I Will Wait for You

THE WORD OF GOD

Children’s Message
Children’s Church (3–5-year-olds)
Scripture Reading Luke 1:5-38
Sermon “Believe the Unbelievable”

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RESPONSE TO GOD

Offertory Prayer
Song of Response *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
*Affirmation of Faith WSC Q. 21-22
Congregational Prayer
*Benediction
*Doxology
*Postlude

Hymn #192

Mary Holle

*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

“Bernard [of Clairvaux] declared there are here three miracles: that God and man should be joined in this Child; that a mother should remain a virgin; that Mary should have such faith as to believe that this mystery would be accomplished in her. The last is not the least of these three...Had she not believed, she could not have conceived. She held fast to the word of the angel because she had become a new creature. Even so must we be transformed and renewed in heart from day-to-day. Otherwise, Christ is born in vain” (Martin Luther on the virgin birth of Christ).

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

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
Luke Droppers – surgery went well on his lip, pray for continued good recovery as he is now home.
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

Cat Lake Ministry – Matt & Ashley Klockenga and Ron & Jen Keres
For our unchurched neighbors

Schedule

TODAY

Worship Service – 9:00 am
Congregational Meeting following the service
Christmas Program practice during the Sunday school time

Monday – 6:30pm Women's Ministry Team Meeting

Tuesday – 12:00pm Ladies of Faith meet at the Pizza Ranch
- 8:15pm Men's Bible Study

Wednesday – 6:00 pm Connect
- 6:30 pm Quest
- 6:30 pm Prayer Group
- 7:45pm Men's Bible Study

Thursday – 6:00am Men's Bible Study
-1:00pm Women's Bible Study

UPCOMING EVENTS AT FAITH:

December 12 – Blood Bank
December 14 – Food Pantry
December 16 – Inquirer's Class
December 17 – Children's Christmas Program

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

Nursery for December 3: Kris Sass & Elise Brill

Nursery for December 10: Darcie Beernink & Noah Hopeman

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

Greeters December 3 - **Narthex:** Don & Rosemary DeMaster
- **Great Room:** Mike & Doris DeHaai

Greeters December 10 – **Narthex:** Bill & Bonnie Depies
- **Great Room:** Jeff & Kim DeRuyter

Serving in the Military:

Jackson DeRuyter
721 New Mexico Ave.
PO Box 1338
Holloman AFB, NM 88330

Family Life at Faith

The Cedar Grove Area Food Pantry served 40 families at the November Food Pantry. The next Food Pantry will be held on Thursday, December 14th. **Right now, we are low on cereal, canned vegetables & fruits, soup, toilet paper & Kleenex.** 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.

We will have another Inquirer's class from 9-1 on Saturday, December 16th, in the church library. Sign-up in the narthex by the boxes. This is for anyone interested in joining the church, or who have grown up in the church but have yet to make a public profession of faith in Christ.

Thank you to those who were able to sign up to donate a Christmas gift to someone in our community. **All donations are due Today** in the Great Room. Please remember to include the ID as well as have the gift ready to wrap (in a box with tissue, but not wrapped). If you have any questions, you can contact Anna Meinnert.

Christmas Cards for our missionaries have been placed on a table in the great room. They will be out until December 10th. Please take the time to sign them letting them know we are thinking of them during the Christmas season.

Family Worship Gathering: The next family worship "lunch & learn" event will be held after church on Sunday, **December 10**, from 11:30-12:45 in the Great Room. This is an opportunity for families to enjoy a potluck lunch and learn about how to pass on the Christian faith to the next generation through a simple method of reading Scripture, praying, and singing. Grandparents are warmly welcome, too! If you are not signed up for this group but would like to join, please contact B.J. Hilbelink at 920-946-9780 or bhilbelink@gmail.com!

Family Life at Faith

JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

Perspectives is a 15-lesson awe-inspiring learning experience that will challenge your view of God and yourself. Fifteen dynamic instructors from around the country show you how to join God in His powerful global purpose. As you study the Bible, mission history, cultural engagement, and strategy, this course will awaken you to God's heart. Visit perspectives.org to explore more and register. Cost: \$220 for New Students. Register by 12/17/23 for \$25 Early Bird Discount. Family and small group discounts also available. 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.

The Funeral Committee is looking to update their list of those who would be willing to help serve meals for a funeral at church. If you would be willing to help in this role, please sign up on the sheet in the information center. If you have any questions, please contact Carol DeRuyter.

Ladies of Faith will meet on Tuesday December 5th at 12:00pm at the Pizza Ranch in Oostburg. It's our Christmas gathering. Please bring an edible \$5 gift to exchange.

The December Newsletter was sent out this week. If you would like a paper copy, you pick one up in the information center.

The Flower Committee is looking for a few more people to join them in decorating the church each month. If you are interested in joining this committee or have any questions, please see Barb Lukens or Jane Voskuil.

Seniors, we invite you to join us at Campus Life Family Ministries for a Senior Lunch Bunch. It is the Campus Life Christmas Program. It will be held on Wed., December 13th from 10:30am- 12:00pm RSVP is required. You can call 920-457-2381.

In the information center you will find a **Reverse Advent Calendar for the Food Pantry**. Please feel free to fill a box and return the items to church. Through your giving you will be making a big difference in our community.

Youth News

CORE (Grades 6-12) - ***Tonight, December 3rd*** Core small group Bible studies meet at **Faith Reformed** from **6:00-7:00PM!**

CONNECT (Grades 6-12) - **Wednesday, December 6th** students are invited to Connect with each other and God at **Faith Reformed** from **6:00-7:30PM!** Worship begins at 6:20.

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



The Children's Christmas Program is planned for December 17th at 5pm. It is for all children 3 years old through 5th grade. Practice will be held each Sunday from November 26th- December 17th.