

## Waiting for Christ's Coming

Luke 2:21-39

Main Point: Christ satisfies those who wait eagerly for His coming.

### 1. Christ's Coming Satisfies Those Who Obey God's Word (2:21-24, 27, 39)

### 2. Christ's Coming Satisfies Those Who are Filled with God's Spirit (2:25-35)

### 3. Christ's Coming Satisfies Those Who Seek God's Face (2:36-38)



December 31, 2023

Prelude

Lauren & Caroline Danforth

Congregational Sharing

\*Greeting One Another

#### APPROACH TO GOD

From Isaiah 40

\*Call to Worship

\*Song of Praise

*O Praise the Name*

\*Prayer of Praise

\*Song of Praise

*All Things New*

#### RENEWAL IN CHRIST

Confession of Sin

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isa. 53:4-6

Song of Assurance

*Jesus Paid it All*

#### THE WORD OF GOD

The Children's Message  
(Children's Church)

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:21-39

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Sermon

"Waiting for Christ's Coming"

#### RESPONSE TO GOD

Offertory Prayer

Song of Response

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Hymn #172

\*Affirmation of Faith

WLC Q. 56

Congregational Prayer

\*Benediction

\*Doxology

\*Postlude

Mary Holle

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\*Congregation standing if able

# FAITH REFORMED CHURCH

Rev. Zach Tarter, Pastor      Jon Damkot, Youth Director  
243 S 4<sup>th</sup> 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

“The King has come...But we too wait. We wait for this great sin-bearing King to return in glory. We long for him to come back. We know that all our groaning, every tear, each sadness will finally be ended only when he comes. And so we wait” (Christopher Ash, *Repeat the Sounding Joy*, 121).

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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 January 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**

Glen Ten Dolle – had a defibrillator put in to help with his heart on Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>.  
Norm DeRuyter - the surgery to open up stents went well. Prayer that now the antibiotics will continue to get to the infection in his foot and heal it.  
Wayne Navis - is home and is working on regaining strength  
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 – all restrictions are lifted but stamina is still limited, and he tires easily.  
Edie Beernink – prayers as she received a smaller oxygen tank that will allow her to get around easier and prayers as the doctors try to figure out what is causing the problem.  
Don Schreurs – moved to Pine Haven Oostburg Campus – room 115 prayers as he continues with therapy

## **Shut-ins**

Neil Bruggink – in the hospital, experiencing some blood loss  
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 – 9:00am

Tuesday – 1:30pm Ladies of Faith

Wednesday – 6:00 pm Connect

- 6:30 pm Quest
- 6:30 pm Prayer Group
- 7:45 pm Men's Bible Study

Thursday – 6:00am Men's Bible Study

-1:00am Women's Bible Study

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT FAITH:

January 7 – Installation & Ordination of new Elders and Deacons

-Lunch & Learn Family Discipleship Meal & Discussion

January 11 – Food Pantry

January 12-14 – HS Fort Winter Retreat

January 14 - Communion

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

**Ushers for January:** Eric Meinnert, Jason Hopeman, Jim Wonser

**Nursery for December 31:** Renee Rauwerdink & Carissa Konzak

**Nursery for January 7:** Alison Zimmermann & Brooke Teunissen

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

**Refreshments for January:** Care Group #4 (Bonnie & Margie)

**Greeters December 31** - **Narthex:** Jeff & Steph Diener Family

- **Great Room:** Matt & Lillie Dirkse

**Greeters January 7** – **Narthex:** Ben & Jamie Dolfen Family

- **Great Room:** Craig, Sue & Kyle Droppers

**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 11<sup>th</sup>. **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 January,** we will be collecting **Love Buckets:** mop/brooms, buckets, dust pans, all-purpose cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, toilet bowl brush & caddy, dish detergent, sponges, and paper towels. 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.

**The Ladies of Faith** will meet Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 1:30pm. We will do Bible Study lesson #10 let by Mary Holle. Hostesses are Mary Holle and Mary Ann DeHaai. You can pick up a copy of the secretary/treasurer reports in the information center.

**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.

**Ordination/Installation Service:** During the service on Sunday, January 7th, we will have our ordination and installation service of incoming officers. Nate Wieberdink and Dane Van Allen will be ordained as deacons and Andy Brill as an elder, while Steve Rauwerdink will be installed as an elder.

**I am deeply grateful** for the many wonderful cards and messages helping me to celebrate my 100th birthday, and the Christmas greetings as well. May we all experience a great new year overflowing with God's Grace.

*Pastor Leon Dykstra*

## Family Life at Faith

**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.

**The January Newsletter** was emailed out last week. If you prefer a paper copy, you can pick one up in the information center.

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

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

**New 2024 Telephone Directory:** I have put out the telephone directory sheets on the table in the great room for you to look over. Please check your name and details about your address, phone numbers, & email addresses. Write down any changes you have on the sheet. Also, if your birthday or anniversary has not been in the newsletter – I have a sheet for you to write birthdays & anniversaries on – please include the year for our records. The sheets will be available for a couple of weeks until we hopefully have everything corrected. Thanks for your help. Wendy

**From the Staff:** We would like to thank the congregation for their cards, gifts and delicious treats given to us this Holiday season. We feel truly blessed to serve the Family of Faith Reformed Church. Thank you to everyone.

***Pastor Zach, Jon, BJ & Wendy***

**Thank you** to the congregation and staff of Faith Reformed Church for the cards, gifts, and kind words received throughout the holiday season. They were all very much appreciated.

***Laurie and Linda***

## Youth News

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**Sunday School** returns Sunday, January 7th.

**CORE** returns Sunday, January 7th.

**CONNECT** (Grades 6-12) - **Wednesday, January 3rd** 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, January 3rd** Quest will meet at **Faith Reformed** from **6:30-7:30PM**. Registration and games begin at 6:10.

**HS FORT WINTER RETREAT** **\*\*FORMS DUE\*\***- 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 Connect or the outdoor dropbox at Faith **before Wednesday, January 3rd**. <https://www.faithreformedchurch.org/events/youth/>

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