

**December 27, 2015**

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**Church Family**

**Order of Worship**

**Song Service - 5:50 PM**

Psalter 210: all

**Morning Worship - 9:30 AM**

Silent Prayer  
Votum and Salutation\*  
Psalter\* 269  
Reading of the Law  
Reading of Scripture  
Psalter 89  
Pastoral Prayer  
Offertory  
Psalter\* 96  
Sermon  
Prayer  
Offertory  
Psalter\* 140 second tune  
Benediction\*  
Doxology - Psalter\* 202:1, 3

*\*Please stand if you are able*

Sermon:

**A Last Encounter**

Scripture: 1 Kings 21  
Text: 1 Kings 21:17-20  
Lord's Day 40

**Evening Worship - 6:00 PM**

Silent Prayer  
Votum and Salutation\*  
Psalter\* 292:1, 2, 5  
Reading of Scripture  
Psalter 217  
Apostles' Creed  
Pastoral Prayer  
Offertory  
Psalter\* 232  
Sermon  
Prayer  
Offertory  
Psalter\* 280:3, 4  
Benediction\*  
Doxology - Psalter\* 378

Sermon:

**God So Loved That He Gave**

Scripture: John 3:1-17  
Text: John 3:16

**Homebound:**

Mrs. Elsie Arnoudse  
Mrs. Fran Hekman  
Mrs. Dorothy Hitchcock  
Mrs. Barb Kwekel  
Mrs. Florence Langerak  
Mrs. Esther Richards  
Mrs. Mina Van't Hof  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Vanden Toorn  
Mrs. Gertrude VanderGraaf  
Mrs. Marian VerHage

**Remember in Prayer:**

Mrs. Lorraine Slopsema  
Mr. Trent Timmer  
Mr. Rick Vander Veen

**Serving our country:**

Dan & Sarah Arnoudse family

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**Consistory Members**

Pastors:	Pastor Ian Macleod	616.401.3812
	Dr. David Murray (Chairman-Consistory)	616.719.9320
	Dr. L. W. Bilkes (Emeritus)	616.635.2591
	Dr. Jerry Bilkes (Professor of Theology)	616.954.7094
Elders:	Dean Prince (Vice Chairman)	616.836.9678
	Gerrit Kleyn (Secretary)	616.791.1512
	Bill Pols	616.669.5758
	Dwight Prince	616.299.4610
	Ron Rittner	616.485.2344
	Andy Vanden Toorn	616.644.9112
Deacons:	David Pronk (Chairman-Deacons)	616.299.4611
	Eric Wielhouwer (Vice-Chairman-Deacons)	616.364.3071
	Dick Spaans (Treasurer)	616.835.1118
	Roger Osmun (Secretary)	616.204.9077
	Jason Beeke (Asst. Secretary)	616.893.2570

# Meditation

## OUR DAYS A SHADOW

What is a shadow? Let a man look back on his own life, and he will get the answer to the question; let him take a serious and impartial retrospect of his former history., and then give in his evidence; and--- “we are strangers and sojourners as were all our fathers; our days on earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding,” will be the amount of his testimony.

Let me appeal to the older persons in the church today, some of the age of the writer of this text; let them tell us, or rather tell themselves, what it is. And will you not say, dear brethren, that it has been a shadow? What has been grasped---what has been obtained? I hope of none of you it may be said, that he has sown to the wind and he will reap the whirlwind. I know how to make it substance, and you now how to make it substance; but are you doing it? One thing is needful—an interest in Christ, and being clothed in the mantle of his spotless righteousness; and having all your iniquities cast behind Jesus’ back into the depths of the sea. That one thing will give substance to this shadow, and will furnish something to grasp in the flittings of life.

Now, supposing our days on earth were not a shadow---supposing, our life was as substantial as it is shadowy, then it lacks permanency--then there would be a deeper regret at parting with than that which we even now feel. But how, if all were substance instead of shadow, how would it answer the purpose of spiritual discipline? Unsatisfactory as its happiest department is said to be, its pleasures are too apt to corrupt our hearts. How awful, then, would the consequences be, did it yield you more complete enjoyment! If, with all its troubles, we are declared to be too much attached to it, how entirely might it have riveted our affections if no troubled had been mingled with its pleasures; if all its shadows had been substance!

God has therefore mercifully tinged all sublunary things with vanity on purpose to make us feel that this is not our rest, that here we are, if we may so say, not in our proper place, not arrived at our true home. If, therefore, we expect to find any true happiness on earth, we pursue a phantom; we increase the agitation and unhappiness in life by engaging in a chase entirely fruitless,---“For we are strangers and sojourners: our days on earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding.” Life is so in all ranks. I must remind you, that this is the confession of a monarch, who had given to him power, a crown, a scepter, splendor, and dominion; and yet all was a shadow, and he said, “There is none abiding.” The literal translation of the word “abiding” is, there is no *expectation*: “our days on earth are as a shadow, and there is no expectation.”

*T. Macconnel*

# Welcome

Thank you so much for coming to worship God with us today. We hope and pray that you will be blessed among us and that you also will be a blessing to us. If you have any prayer needs or if you'd like to know more about our church, one of our pastors or elders would be very happy to speak with you.

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“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

*Isaiah 9:6*

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## Congregational Life

- Today, Dr. Jerry Bilkes will conduct our worship services.
- The Sunday School (Beginners through 7th Grade) Psalter of the month is #417. Please review with your children.
- There will be no Sunday School/Catechism classes this morning.
- There will be a *New Year's Eve* service Thursday, December 31 at 7 PM, led by Pastor Murray, Lord willing.
- There will be a *New Year's Day* service on Friday, January 1 at 9:30 AM, led by Pastor Macleod, DV.
- Next Sunday, Pastor Murray will lead our worship services, DV.
- Pastor Murray & his family will *be on vacation* until December 29. Pastor Murray will be preaching at a Reformed Baptist church in Fort Lauderdale during that time.
- The deadline for *bulletin announcements*, for this week will be *Wednesday at noon* due to the New Year holiday.
- The church building has been left unlocked several times recently. If you are using the church building, it is very important to remember to lock the door when you leave for the wellbeing of our building and the safety of others entering after it has been left unlocked. Thank you!

# Calendar

*"The Lord willing" James 4:15*

**December 29** - (Tuesday) 12:30 PM Ladies Fold laundry at the Christian Rest Home.

**December 31** - (Thursday) 7 PM New Year's Eve service.

**January 1** - (Friday) 9:30 AM New Year's Day service.

**January 2** - (Saturday) 7 PM YABS Book Study. If you have any questions contact Nate Vanden Toorn.

**January 5** - (Tuesday) Elders meeting at 6 PM with full Consistory beginning at 7:30 PM.

**January 5** - (Tuesday) 7 PM Dorcas Guild meeting. Our project for January is to collect items for our Veterans! Please see the list of items attached to your monthly calendar and consider donating to those who have paid the price for our freedoms that we enjoy today! There will be a bin in the narthex for your donations until January 5. Thank you in advance for the support!

**January 6** - (Wednesday) 6-8 PM Weekly Prayer Meeting.

**January 9** - (Saturday) 7 PM YABS will have game night.

**January 9** - (Saturday) 7 PM Informal service at Mel Trotter Mission led by Chris Engelsma.

**January 10** - (Sunday) 4 PM Youth Group meeting at church.  
Snack: Pals & Dykema

# Other News

*Boys & Girls Club News:* We are collecting money for the Cubulco Hospital for the next month. Our goal is to reach \$200 by January 13 (our next meeting). Donations may be put in the collection plate clearly labeled "B&GC-Guatemala." Thank you!

*Choir Notice* - The Lord willing, the Men and Children Choirs will begin the winter season on January 9, 2016, at Heritage NRC. Practice will begin at 8:30 AM for the men and 10:00 AM for the children. May the Lord incline many hearts to join us this season.

*The Heritage Voices Choir* will begin its second semester on Monday, January 11th at 7:30 PM, the Lord willing. We welcome those with a gift for singing to join with us and could especially use additional Soprano and Alto voices for the songs that have been selected. We look forward to seeing everyone then.

# Sermon Notes

A series of horizontal dashed lines providing a template for writing sermon notes.

<b>Nursery</b>		
Today	Room A	Room B
Morning	Courtney Prince	Jeanette DeBlaay
	Laura Hults	Lauren Bilkes
Evening	Jen Klaasen	Kim Kleyn
	Annelise Moerdyk	Trienna Moerdyk
<i>New Year's Eve</i>	Lisa Van Strien, Sonia Wielhouwer, Gabby Karel	
<i>New Year's Day</i>	Liz Prince, Hannah Kleyn, Joni Murray	
Next Week		
Morning	Cora Beute	Melanie Vander Boon
	Julie Timmer	Hermien Theron
Evening	Jen Pennings	Briana Boot
	Amanda Venlet	Louisa Haab
December	Mother in Charge	Betsy Timmer

<b>Ushers</b>		
	Morning	Evening
Today	Joel Markwat	Jim Vander Graaf
Next Week	Tim La Rocque	Ron Vander Boon

<b>Offerings</b>			
	First Collection	Second Collection	Collection Boxes
Today	Education Fund	Benevolent Fund	Powassen
Next Week	General Fund	Education Fund	Pregnancy Resource Center
<i>New Year's Eve</i>		Word & Deed	
<i>New Year's Day</i>		General Fund	

Please send material for the bulletin to Julie La Rocque by noon on Thursday:  
616.647.9198 or [juleslarocque@yahoo.com](mailto:juleslarocque@yahoo.com)