

Gathered to Worship

Prelude

Welcome and God's Greeting

Song of Worship: #475 (PH)

"Another Year Is Dawning"

Relying on Grace

God's Will for Our Lives

Prayer

Song of Praise:

(children ages 3 - Kindergarten are dismissed for Children's Church)

"Forever"

Giving with Thanks

Offertory Prayer

Offering:

Faith Promise Missionaries

Hearing God's Word

Scripture:

Sermon:

Prayer

Matthew 13:1-23 (p. 968)

PARABLES: WHY THESE STORIES?

Blessed to Serve

Song of Response: #946 (LH)

Benediction

Doxology: #60:1 (WC)

Postlude

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Leading us in Worship

Worship Leaders:

Sermon:

Organ:

Piano:

Guitar:

Bass:

Pastors Lanser and Schuringa

Pastor Matthew Lanser

Donna Erdman

Jan Slinkman

Matt Bulthuis

Cassidy Bulthuis

(PH-Psalter Hymnal; WC-Worshiping Church- in pews; LH-Lift Up Your Hearts Hymnal-not in pews)

God Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Welcome and God's Greeting

Song of Worship: #394 (LH)

"All Praise to You, My God, This Night"

We Express Our Faith and Gratitude

Profession of Faith:

The Apostles' Creed (*p. 3 in the back of the PH*)

Prayer

Song of Worship:

"You Are My All in All"

Offertory Prayer

Offering:

Horizon Community Church

God Speaks to His People

Scripture:

Matthew 4:23-5:5 (*p. 958*)

Sermon:

AN INHERITANCE FOR THE MEEK

Prayer

We Go Out with God's Blessing

Song of Response: #326 (PH)

"Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise"

Benediction

Doxology: #78:1,3,6 (WC)

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Postlude

Leading us in Worship

Worship Leader:

Pastor Matthew Lanser

Sermon:

Rev. Dave Armstrong

Piano:

Donna Erdman

(PH-Psalter Hymnal; WC-Worshiping Church- in pews; LH-Lift Up Your Hearts Hymnal-not in pews)

Today at Faith

This morning we're beginning a new sermon series *Parables on the Way to the Cross*. In this first sermon, we'll read the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13:1-23, which calls us to respond faithfully to Jesus' teaching.

This evening Rev. Dave Armstrong will be preaching from Matthew 4:23-5:5 on the blessing of the meek.

Prayer & Praise

If you have prayer needs, please visit room 1 on the north side of the sanctuary after the morning service.

Remember to pray for those who are unable to join us in worship. Today we think of Grace Lanenga who lives in Village Woods in Crete, IL.

Please pray for the Cadet Congress that meets in Grand Rapids this Thursday, Friday & Saturday. This is the decision-making body of Cadets. Brad Wieringa & Lambert Bronger will be representing the Chicago West Council.

The Music Committee would like to express their thanks to each and every one who participated in our Christmas Worship Services. For the many who work behind the scenes to provide support in various ways, to the many who gave of their time in rehearsals, and to each and every one who so willingly participated in these services...we thank you! Ps. 21:13 *We praise you, Lord, for all your glorious power. With music and singing we celebrate your mighty acts.*

Offerings

Today: January 7: AM: Faith Promise Missionaries.
PM: Horizon Community Church.

January 14: AM: Timothy Tuition Assistance Fund.
PM: Grace & Peace Community Church.

January 21: AM: Faith General Fund. PM: Ebenezer CRC.

January 28: AM: Cadets International.
PM: Chicago West Side Christian School.

Announcements

You are invited to the Calvin College January Series continuing this week through January 23 at Faith. Each lecture will be shown through live feed from Calvin College at 11:30 AM until 12:30 PM and will cover topics ranging from millennials and faith, restorative justice, confident pluralism, radical generosity and so much more by top experts in their fields. Faith CRC is one of more than 50 remote webcast sites across the continent, joining a daily audience of about 3,000 people a day. For information on the speakers and topics, visit the January Series website at www.calvin.edu/january. Don't miss out on this chance to hear fabulous lectures and experience a piece of Calvin College right here in Elmhurst!

The Faith CRC Council will be meeting tomorrow, January 8, to initiate the elder-deacon nomination process for the service term starting in June 2018. The process starts with the Council selecting nominees for each office and culminates on May 7 at our annual Congregational Meeting with the congregation voting from among the Council nominees. In preparation, the Council asks the congregation to suggest names for each office. We value your thoughtful and prayerful consideration for those who would qualify as elders and deacons. We are guided in this process by the insight provided in God's word regarding the qualifications for each office found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9 (elders) and 1 Timothy 3:8-13 (deacons). To make a recommendation, please put the nominee's name and the office for which you are nominating him on a signed piece of paper and put it in the mailbox of Don Miller, Clerk of Council, or please speak with any deacon or elder.

A Profession of Faith Class for high school students is being planned Sunday afternoons at 4:00 PM in February of 2018. Please reach out to Pastor Greg Schuringa to participate or for more information.

Have you ever thought about being trained as a Stephens Minister? There is a class starting soon. If you have any interest, please contact Grace Harbaugh, harbaugg@fnbb.com.

The Faith Book Club has selected *Martin Luther: The Man Who Rediscovered God and Changed the World* by Eric Metaxas for discussion at their January meeting. The book is a human portrait of the man who boldly challenged the church. All are welcome to join us this Wednesday at 7:00 PM at Park Place. Contact Sandy Turnbull stbull1019@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Creative Connections: Ladies do you want to be more intentional in the new year about sending cards or greetings to family and friends for their birthdays and other special occasions? On January 11, 6:30 - 9:30 PM, you are welcome to join us to make a wooden perpetual calendar wall hanging (see signup sheet for pictures). Cost: \$7.00. Please sign up soon (no later than January 7) as there are only 20 spots available. Make sure to indicate which type of calendar you would like printed. Should you have any questions please feel free to call Susan Middel, 630-656-2801 or smiddel6@yahoo.com. You are also welcome to join us and work alongside us on your own project.

Young Adult Sunday Evening Get-Together: We'll be getting together every month or so this year for a meal and discussion on Sunday evenings. Join us on Sunday, February 18 at 7:00 PM (after the evening service). We will also meet on March 4. Please RSVP to Jonathan Barney for food prep.

VBS Save the Date: All four year olds through 5th grade are invited to join our church for a week of activities and Bible learning from 9:00 – 11:30 AM daily, June 18-21. Our thrilling theme this year is *Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus!* Mark your calendars—registration coming soon. Contact Youth Director, Jonathan Barney for questions.

The 6th, 7th and 8th grade Catechism class is collecting aluminum cans, old Christmas lights, small broken appliances, and scrap metal. Proceeds will go to All God's Children/Hogar De Ninos. Items can be placed by the church garage.

Youth News

Youth Groups Unite! We're inviting local area youth groups (Pathway Church, Lombard CRC & Elmhurst CRC) to join us for a special event. 6-12th graders are invited to come for a meal, worship and activities from 7:00 – 9:00 PM tonight at Faith CRC.

Winter Retreat: Parents look for an email on Monday with more trip details.

High School Hangout with Austin Burke from Lynden SERVE on January 10 at 3:15 PM at Mickey's in Villa Park. Bring some money to buy your own food.

Fathers & Sons of all ages are invited to attend the Chicago West Council's Cadet Swimming Party, Friday, January 19 from 8:30 PM - 10:30 PM, at Schaumburg Water Works. More information to follow.

This Week at Faith

Today

Sunday School & Catechism will resume their regular schedule.
The Sermon Discussion Group will meet in room 4/5 at 10:45 AM.
PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) signup sheets for February are available in the Fellowship Hall.
Asylum and the Gathering will meet at 7:00 PM.

Monday, January 8

The Calvin January Series presents Shane Claiborne: *Executing Grace: How the Death Penalty Killed Jesus and Why it's Killing Us* at 11:30 AM.
The Executive Committee will meet at 6:30 PM.
Council will meet at 7:00 PM.
The Elders will meet at 8:00 PM.

Tuesday, January 9

The Calvin January Series presents Pashon Murray: *Detroit Dirt: Zero Waste from the Ground Up* at 11:30 AM.

Wednesday, January 10

Men's Prayer Group will meet from 7:00 - 8:00 AM.
Bible Study Fellowship will meet at 9:15 AM.
The Calvin January Series presents John Inazu: *Confident Pluralism: Surviving and Thriving through Deep Differences* at 11:30 AM.
GEMS Girls Club will meet from 6:30 – 8:30 PM.
Faith Book Club will meet at 7:00 PM at Park Place.

Thursday, January 11

Mom2Mom will meet at 9:00 AM.
The Calvin January Series presents Laura Sumner Truax: *Love Let Go: Radical Generosity for the Real World* at 11:30 AM.

Friday, January 12

Men's Bible Study will meet at 6:30 AM.
The Calvin January Series presents Caroline Webb: *How to Have a Good Day: Using Behavioral Science to Improve Everyday Life* at 11:30 AM.

Serving Faith Church

Welcome Team: Sandy Turnbull

Next Week: Dave Printz

Saratoga Driver: Corey Van Dyk

Next Week: Darrell Stodola

Kitchen: Pete & Barb Holtrop, Gerrit & Lori Wieringa*

Next Week: Jim & Kathleen Lindemulder, Byron & Cathy Plate*

Library: Nancy Boer, Sharon Herlien

Next Week: Jeri Cook, Laura Miller

Audio Visual: Dan Kooyenga, Al De Los Santos, Chris Slinkman

Next Week: Todd Lindemulder, Ryan Swanson, Adam Zarek

Nursery Hostess: Mindy Slinkman

Next Week: Emily Frank

Infant Nursery: Diana De Boer, Jill Groenewold, Grace Lindemulder

Next Week: Chelsea Barney, Charis Engel, Sophia Schuringa

Toddler Nursery: Sara Swanson, Cindy Vander Naald, Leah De Boer

Next Week: Ruth Flikkema, Cindy Tazelaar, Ben Murphy

PM Nursery: Julie Speelman, Hannah Schuringa

Next Week: Sharon Rozendal, Pat Tobin