

Gathered to Worship

Prelude

Welcome

Advent Reading and Candle-lighting

God's Greeting

Song of Worship: #331:1-4 (PH)

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Relying on Grace

Confession & Assurance

Prayer

Songs of Praise:

"Your Name"

"Rejoice!"

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

Giving with Thanks

Offertory Prayer

Offering:

Faith Promise Missionaries

Hearing God's Word

Scripture:

Judges 7 (p. 240)

Sermon:

HEART-LIFTING PORTRAYAL; HEART-BREAKING BETRAYAL

Prayer

Blessed to Serve

Benediction

Song of Worship: #155:1,3,4 (WC)

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Postlude

Leading us in Worship

Worship Leaders:

Pastors Lanser and Schuringa

Sermon:

Pastor Greg Schuringa

Organ:

Donna Erdman

Piano:

Jan Slinkman

Bass:

Carter Bulthuis

Guitar:

Matt Bulthuis

Advent Participants:

Nathan & Kayla Middel, Young Adult Ministry

(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 Praise: #67 (LH)

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

We Express Our Faith and Gratitude

Profession of Faith:

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

Prayer

Song of Worship: #59 (LH)

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

Offertory Prayer

Offering:

Horizon Community Church

God Speaks to His People

Scripture:

1 Kings 9:25; Colossians 1:19-20 (*pp. 339; 1165*)

Sermon:

PEACE

Prayer

We Go Out with God's Blessing

Song of Response: #335:1,3 (PH)

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Benediction

Doxology: #335:4 (PH)

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Postlude

Leading us in Worship

Worship Leader:

Pastor Greg Schuringa

Sermon:

Pastor Matthew Lanser

Piano:

Jan Slinkman

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

Today at Faith

Four Sundays of Advent begin this Sunday. Advent is a period of waiting and anticipation of the fulfillment of God's promises through the coming of Jesus. As we prepare for and give thanks for His birth at Christmas, we also anticipate Christ's second coming at the end of time when God will make all things new. Each of these Sunday mornings and on Christmas Day volunteers representing various church ministries will read from God's Word and light a candle to help point us to God's Promises, fulfilled in Jesus.

This morning in our Judges sermon series, *Silver Linings in Dark Ages*, we conclude the account of Gideon, and find there why God prepares for the coming of the Light of the World. **Also this morning** we'll spend some time preparing for our planned Communion celebration next week.

This evening we're beginning an Advent series on peace, hope, joy and love. For our first sermon in this series, we'll be reading 1 Kings 9:25 and Colossians 1:19-20 and reflecting on the theme of peace. You can view a video about tonight's theme at <https://thebibleproject.com/videos/shalom-peace/>. If you're interested in looking ahead to next week, you can check out the "hope" video at: <https://thebibleproject.com/videos/yakhal-hope/>.

Upcoming Worship Highlights

December 9, 9:30 AM: Communion

December 16, 9:30 AM: Children Lead us in Christmas Praise

December 16, 6:00 PM: Hymn Sing:

Congregation Chooses Christmas Hymns

December 23, 6:00 PM: Christmas Candlelight Service

December 25, 10:00 AM: Christmas Morning Service

Upcoming Music Opportunities

Please take note of the following music opportunity for Christmas morning. Please sign up in the narthex if you plan to attend and contact Jan or Donna if you have any questions. **Music has been placed in your mailbox.** If the musician in your family is away at college, please get the music to them and let them know of this upcoming service.

Christmas Rehearsals:

December 9: Choir, 11:00 AM; Orchestra, 4:00 PM

December 16: Choir, 11:00 AM; Orchestra, 4:00 PM

December 23: Choir, 11:00 AM; Orchestra, 4:00 PM

Offerings

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

December 9: AM: Timothy Tuition Assistance. PM: Lawndale CRC.

December 16: AM: Roseland Christian Ministries.

PM: Rehoboth Christian School.

December 23: AM: Daystar School. PM: Crossroad Prison Ministry.

December 30: AM: Caring Network. PM: Chicago Christian Counseling Center.

Prayer & Praise

Pre-morning worship prayer time: The Faith CRC Elder Prayer Team invites anyone to join in praying for our worship services in Room 1, from 9:10 – 9:20 AM every Sunday. We join each week to pray that in our worship at Faith Church we would give glory to God, that people would be touched and changed through the faithful proclamation of God’s Word, through music, prayer and giving our gifts; and that we’d go out, eager and equipped to serve the Lord and others in our world!

Post-morning worship prayer time: Immediately after morning worship every Sunday an Elder and a Stephen Minister are available for prayer in Room 14. Exit the sanctuary at the south-east door which leads toward the children’s ministry wing and you’ll see Room 14 straight ahead.

Judy Doornbos spent some time in the hospital last week with a couple health issues. Please pray for good recovery for Judy.

Jayne Lindemulder had hip replacement surgery last Friday. Please pray that her surgery and recovery go well.

Ken Teune would like to express deep appreciation to the congregation for the prayers and cards following his recent hip surgery.

Please keep **Dirk and Florence Zaagman** in your prayers. Dirk’s Parkinson’s disease is becoming difficult to deal with, and his ability to walk has become very limited.

Remember to pray for those who are unable to join us in worship. Today we think of **Theresa Vegters** who lives in Lexington Square in Elmhurst.

Announcements

Shalom Committee and Ebenezer CRC Partnership: “Seek the peace (shalom) of the city where I have put you” - Jeremiah 29:7. Faith’s Shalom Committee has been at work for the last year or so exploring how we can promote grace, justice and mercy in our church and community, in partnership with other churches and ministries. For the rest of this ministry year, we’re engaging in a church-to-church partnership with Ebenezer CRC in Berywn to learn from each other and seek shalom together. The Shalom Committee will be providing a variety of opportunities for people from Faith to serve with, talk with, and worship with people from Ebenezer (The Christmas Gift Drive is one example of this). We’re looking forward to developing opportunities for our church to listen, learn and serve with other ministries, and we hope that this will equip us to more effectively love our neighbors and neighborhoods here. Please continue to pray for this team, and please consider participating in some way in our Ebenezer-Faith church-to-church partnership over the coming months.

Seniors’ Bible Study’s will meet this Tuesday, December 4 at 1:15 PM here at Faith. We’ll continue our *Generosity* study with Lesson 6, continuing the theme of “Generosity and Wealth.”

Faith CRC on Facebook, Twitter and now Instagram! Search for “faithelmhurst” on Instagram and follow us there!

Ebenezer Christmas Event: We're looking for a few volunteers to help with delivery and set up for the Ebenezer Christmas Gift Drive. We'll need to bring the gifts to Ebenezer, help to set them up at Ebenezer for parents to choose gifts for their children, and check people into the event. Help is needed this Thursday, December 6 at 6:00 PM and on Friday, December 7, starting at 3:30 PM. Please contact Sandy Turnbull or sign up if you can help out on either of those dates.

Ebenezer Christmas Gift Drive: This year our church will be collecting children's Christmas gifts together with Ebenezer CRC in Berwyn. These gifts will go to the families who make use of Ebenezer's weekly food pantry. We'll be accepting new and gently used toys for a variety of age levels. All gifts need to be brought to Faith by this evening. This is a great opportunity for Faith and Ebenezer to partner in ministry, so clean out your extra toys or buy something new to bless families in need. Contact Pete Holtrop, Evangelism Committee Chair, or Pastor Matthew with questions.

Giving Tree: Please remember to bring your gifts to the Fellowship Hall by the morning of December 9. If you have any questions you may contact Judy Bronger 630-665-9422. Thank you.

The congregation is invited to decorate the Giving Tree with gloves, hats, men's and women's underwear (all sizes), and socks for PADS. These unwrapped items may be placed on or under the tree on Sunday, December 9. Thank you for your gifts!

A Christmas Carol at Faith: Join us for a special event at church on December 20 at 10:00 AM, featuring a presentation by author Rochelle Pennington on the history and writing of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Pennington's narrative will offer factual perspective and behind-the-scenes insights into the epic influence of Dicken's characters: Ebenezer Scrooge, Jacob Marley, and the trio of Christmas ghosts. Light refreshments and coffee will be served, and reservations are required. There is a sign-up sheet available in the narthex or you can call the church office to make reservations. The cost for this event is \$10 and payment should be made to the church office. If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact Cathy Bulthuis, 630-935-1849.

Roseland Breakfast and Worship: Serve breakfast and join in worship at Roseland Christian Ministries on January 27, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Please RSVP to Jonathan at jbarney@faithelmhurst.org.

Each year, the ministries of All God's Children provide a home and necessary care for children that are orphaned, abandoned, abused or surrendered by parents in the country of Honduras. Monthly sponsorship is the primary way All God's Children fulfills the needs of these children but choosing to serve in person is an exceptional way to show the love of Christ and connect personally with a child in need. This year Faith CRC - Elmhurst is teaming up with Faith CRC - Tinley Park to serve the children and ministries of All God's Children in Comayagua Honduras. Please consider joining us for a week of fellowship, fun and an opportunity for personal spiritual growth while serving others. This year's dates are January 26-Feb 2, 2019. *Mark 9:37* For more information contact: Bob Loerop: 630-988-2625 – gtobob@aol.com or Clarence Klaassens: 708-334-2454 – clarence@accu-ray.com.

A heartfelt thank you for all the contributions we received for the college exam and military boxes. Your generosity allowed us to send 28 boxes out to 11 states! Thank you for helping make these young adults feel continually connected to their church family at Faith.

Youth News

Sunday School students will meet just for singing today and will dismiss at 11:30 AM.

The Gathering Christmas Party: Join us tonight from 7:00 – 9:00 PM this Sunday, December 2 for a meal, Bible teaching, White Elephant Gift and Christmas game fun! (What counts as a White Elephant Gift? It is any goody, ridiculous, old things lying around the house. Students may also buy something cheap for up to \$5.)

Summer Service-Learning Trip: All current 8th – 12th graders are invited to join us on a service trip to Memphis, TN the week of July 14-21. We will be staying at a church and ministering to an underserved Memphis neighborhood through home repair and leadership development. Registration is due today. Cost is \$250.

Asylum Christmas Party: Join us from 7 - 8:30 PM on Sunday, December 9 for a meal, Bible teaching, cookie decorating and Christmas game fun!

Winter Retreat: All 6-12th graders are invited to join us from January 18-20 for winter fun, horseback riding, paint ball, guest speaker and band and fellowship at Phantom Ranch, WI. Registration coming soon.

Roseland Breakfast and Worship: Serve breakfast and join in worship at Roseland Christian Ministries on January 27, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Please RSVP to Jonathan at Jbarney@faithelmhurst.org.

This Week at Faith

Today, December 2

Sunday School, 10:45 -11:30 AM
Catechism, 10:45 -11:30 AM
The Gathering, 7:00 PM

Monday, December 3

Deacons, 6:00 PM
Executive Committee, 6:30 PM
Elders, 7:00 PM
Council, 8:15 PM

Tuesday, December 4

Senior Bible Study, 1:15 PM

Wednesday, December 5

Men's Prayer Group, 7:00 - 8:00 AM
Bible Study Fellowship, 9:00 AM
Cadets & Jr. Cadets, 6:30 PM

Thursday, December 6

Women's Bible Study, 9:00 AM
Women's Bible Study, 7:00 PM

Serving Faith Church

Welcome Team: Herm Vander Naald **Next Week:** Dave Printz
Kitchen: Bruce & DeDe Terpstra*, Ted & Laurie Vander Naald
Next Week: Pete & Barb Holtrop, Gerrit & Lori Wieringa
Library: Nancy Boer, Sharon Herlien **Next Week:** Jeri Cook, Laura Miller
Audio Visual: Todd Lindemulder, Logan Van Proyen, Adam Zarek
Next Week: Steve David, Mike Speelman, Colin Middel
Nursery Hostess: Ruth Flikkema **Next Week:** Chelsea Barney
Infant Nursery: Kelly Rauwerda, Laura Van Kampen, Jenny Lumkes
Next Week: Julie Speelman, Paige Hoving, Bonnie Van Proyen
Toddler Nursery: Sue Boonstra, Melanie Lumkes, Lauren Miller
Next Week: Ruth Flikkema, Laurie Van Dahm, Jacki Van Dahm
PM Nursery: Joy Koopmans, Caleb Lindemulder
Next Week: Susan Middel, Sarah Schuringa

2018 – 2019 FAITH CRC COUNCIL Rev. Greg Schuringa, President Rev. Matthew Lanser

ELDERS:

Jim Engel – 2019
Dirk Glaubke – 2021 (Vice-President)
Pete Holtrop – 2020
Mike Hoving – 2021 (Vicar)
Chris Kakabeeke - 2021
Greg Lanenga – 2019
Don Miller - 2019 (Clerk)
Don Oostman- 2019
Bern Slinkman - 2020
Mike Tornow – 2021
Len Turnbull – 2020
Dave Voss - 2020

DEACONS:

Spencer Anderson - 2020
Cal Boonstra - 2021
Steve David – 2021 (Chair of Deacons)
Jon Huizinga - 2019
Jon Kinnas – 2019 (Treasurer)
Dan Kooyenga - 2021
Scott Piersma - 2020
Chris Slinkman - 2020
John Tazelaar - 2019
Mark Van Dahm - 2021
Corey Van Dyk - 2020
Adam Zarek - 2019

Announcements from our Ministry Partners

Illiana Oratorio Society cordially invites you to attend their annual presentation of Handel's Messiah. The concert will be on Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 2:00 PM at First Christian Reformed Church of South Holland, IL located at 16248 South Park Ave., South Holland, IL. Please join us for the Christmas season as we present this marvelous work to God's praise!

The Timothy Christian Music Department will present *O Come All Ye Faithful*, a collage of Christmas & Holiday Music at Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church on Friday, December 7, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

Cedar Lake Ministries is having a *Merry and Bright* Christmas Concert Series on December 7 and 8. Each concert will begin at 6:00 PM with an exquisite buffet dinner, dessert, and a wonderful concert. On Friday, December 7, 2018 we are very blessed to have the Tribute Quartet, a premier musical entity in the Southern Gospel arena, singing songs of the season and music with a message that will leave you refreshed and uplifted. On Saturday, December 8, 2018 Mark Bishop, an award-winning singer, leading Gospel songwriter, and producer with 30+ years of Gospel music, will be here singing songs of the season and sharing captivating stories of love, faith, and family through his storytelling music. *Merry and Bright* ticket pricing for an exquisite buffet dinner, dessert, and a wonderful concert are as follows: Early-bird – \$40 per person (Expires 11/30); Standard – \$50 per person; Group of 6 or more – additional \$5 off. Purchase your tickets today by calling 219-374-5941 or by visiting www.cedarlakeministries.org. Groups are welcome!

Purchase with a Purpose: On Saturday, December 8, 2018 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM at Timothy Christian High School you can shop the trunk show of beautifully handcrafted jewelry and home decor! All products made by abandoned women and widows of the James Place located in Jinja, Uganda. Every purchase empowers the women toward family preservation and sustainability. Please contact Amber Garcia @ amberlgarcia621@gmail.com for any questions.

Come celebrate the Christmas season with song! The Men of A-Chord cordially invites you to join them in "A Festival of Nine Lessons in Carols for Christmastide" on Saturday, December 15th at 7 p.m. at Thorn Creek Reformed Church of South Holland, IL. Come join the singing with the Carols and Songs of the Season celebrating Christ's birth! Justin Rich is the director, Beverly Hoitsma is the pianist, and Nancy Venema is the organist. Betsy Archer will be with us this year as soprano soloist. A free-will offering will be taken.

Faith Ministry Contact Information

Asylum (grades 6-8) (Middle School Youth Group)	Jonathan Barney 630-279-0420
Bible Study Fellowship	Jen Cozette 708-491-8241
Cadets Boys Club	Lambert Bronger 630-665-9422
Children's Church	Christy Hooker 630-832-5378
Crossroads Prison Ministries	Ray Middel 630-862-1861
Deacons/Finance	Steve David 630-967-8672
Disability Advocates	Don & Laura Miller 630-279-0350
Discipleship Committee	Greg Lanenga 708-562-6697
Elders	Dirk Glaubke 312-375-6431
Evangelism	Peter Holtrop 630-953-2938 Pastor Lanser 630-530-7900
Fellowship	Spencer Anderson 630-488-8412 Peter Holtrop 630-953-2938
GEMS Girls Club	Flory Hoving 630-279-5294
Hospitality/Meals	Spencer Anderson 630-488-8412
Library	Chuck Slinkman 630-730-4018
Membership Classes	Pastor Schuringa 630-279-1779
Men's Bible Studies	Steve David 630-967-8672 Christopher Koopmans 312-718-0293
Men's Prayer Group	Lambert Bronger 630-655-9422
Missions	Don Oostman 630-983-7239
Mom2Mom Ministry	Sarah Schuringa 630-279-0016
Music Ministries	Len Turnbull 630-941-8213
Nursery	Joy Koopmans 616-610-0259
P.A.D.S.	Lambert Bronger 630-665-9422
Profession of Faith Classes	Pastor Schuringa 630-279-1779
Right to Life Committee	Lambert Bronger 630-655-9422
Safe Church Ministry	Don Miller 630-279-0350
Senior Bible Study	Pastor Lanser 630-530-7900
Shoebox Ministry	Evelyn Wieringa 630-495-8956
Shut-in Visitation	Bern Slinkman 708-492-0114
Stephen Ministry	Grace Harbaugh 630-624-9468
Sunday School	Joy Hoving 630-780-9862
Technology Ministries	Adam Zarek 312-434-0527
The Gathering (High School)	Jonathan Barney 630-279-0420
Transportation	Corey Van Dyk 630-917-1365
Ushers	Ray Rozendal 630-782-1998
Women's Bible Study	Sarah Schuringa 630-279-0016