

Gathered to Worship

Prelude

Welcome and God's Greeting

Advent Reading and Candle-lighting

Song of Worship:

"We Will Exalt You"

Praise for Christ's Coming

Sunday School Songs

Song of Praise:

"Angels from the Realms of Glory-Emmanuel"

Prayer

Children's Church Songs:

"Sing We Now of Christmas"

"Child So Lovely"

"Christmas News"

"Christmas Bells"

"We Wish You a Merry Christmas"

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Song of Worship: #169 (WC)

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

Giving with Thanks

Offertory Prayer

Offering:

Roseland Christian Ministries

Hearing God's Word

Scripture:

Exodus 26:30-37 (pp. 79)

Sermon:

GOD'S INDWELT PEOPLE

Prayer

Blessed to Serve

Song of Response: #171:1-2 (WC)

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Benediction

Doxology: #171:3 (WC)

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Postlude

Leading us in Worship

Worship Leader:

Pastor Greg Schuringa

Sermon:

Pastor Matthew Lanser

Organ:

Donna Erdman

Piano:

Jan Slinkman

Bass:

Carter Bulthuis

Guitars:

Matt Bulthuis, Mike Printz

Advent Participants:

Morgan & Paige Hoving, High School Ministries

(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

Advent Reading and Candle-lighting

Song of Joy: #166:1,3,4 (WC)

"While by the Sheep We Watched"

We Express Our Faith and Gratitude

Profession of Faith:

Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 14
(p. 21 in the back of the PH)

Prayer

Songs of Christmas:

Congregation's Choice

Offertory Prayer

Offering:

Rehoboth Christian School

God Speaks to His People

Scripture:

1 Peter 1:3-9 *(p. 1200)*

Sermon:

JOY IN THE WORLD

Prayer

We Go Out with God's Blessing

Benediction

Song of Response: #337:1,2 (PH)

Postlude

"Joy to the World!"

Leading us in Worship

Worship Leader:

Pastor Matthew Lanser

Sermon:

Pastor Greg Schuringa

Organ:

Donna Erdman

Piano:

Jan Slinkman

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

Today at Faith

This is the Third Sunday of Advent. 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. For Advent and Christmas Day, people 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 we're picking up our *Who Are We?: God's Gift of Identity* series with Exodus 26:30-37. This text shows us that we are "God's Indwelt People." Also during this service our Children's Church and Sunday School children will share a number of Christmas songs with us.

This evening we continue in our evening sermon series on Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love with a focus on Joy under the theme "Joy in the World." You can view a video about tonight's theme at: <https://thebibleproject.com/videos/chara-joy/>. Next week we'll wrap up this series with the theme of love. The video for this last sermon is available at: <https://thebibleproject.com/videos/agape-love/>.

Also tonight congregation members will have opportunity to select favorite Christmas hymns during our Christmas Hymn Sing.

Upcoming Worship Highlights

December 23, 9:30 AM: Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 6:00 PM: Candlelight Service
December 25, 10:00 AM: Christmas Service
December 30, 9:30 AM and 6:00 PM: Old Year's Sunday
January 6: New Year's Sunday
January 6, 6:00 PM: Prayer 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.

Christmas Rehearsals:

December 16: Choir, 11:00 AM; Orchestra, 4:00 PM
December 23: Choir, 11:00 AM; Orchestra, 4:00 PM

Offerings

Today: AM: Roseland Christian Ministries. PM: Rehoboth Christian School.
December 23: AM: Daystar School. PM: Crossroads Prison Ministry.
December 30: AM: Faith General Fund. PM: Chicago Christian Counseling.

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.

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.

Congratulations to **Matt & Allison Sowers** on the birth of their son, **Tripp Wilson**, this past Monday.

Judy Doornbos was able to return home again this week after again spending a few days in the hospital. Please pray for improved health for Judy.

Keep **Dirk & Florence Zaagman** in prayer as Dirk continues in hospice care.

Remember to pray for those who are unable to join us in worship. Today we think of **Kathy De Vries** who lives in Rolling Meadows.

"Thank You to our church family for the many cards and prayers, with special thanks to Rev. Schuringa, following our brother's passing."

Jim & Kathy Lindemulder

The Jr. Cadets & the Cadets give thanks for everyone who came to the Cadet Breakfast, your support is greatly appreciated.

Announcements

Sunday School and Catechism begin a winter break today and will resume January 13.

Children's Church will be taking a winter break beginning next Sunday and will resume on January 13.

Membership at Faith CRC. If you are interested in learning more about membership at Faith or want to take steps toward membership, please contact Pastor Greg Schuringa.

Profession of Faith. If you are a baptized member of the church and interested in making profession of faith, please contact Pastor Greg Schuringa. For high school students interested in making profession of faith, our annual class will be offered in early 2019. Watch the bulletin for more details!

Candlelight Service Vocal Ensemble. Are you interested in joining the worship team singers and participating in a vocal ensemble during the Candlelight service on December 23 at 6:00 PM? The goal will be to help the worship team lead the congregation in several songs for that service. Please contact Pastor Greg Schuringa if you are interested. Before that service there will be a practice/rehearsal/sound check.

Young Adult Meal and White Elephant gift exchange: We hope you will join us tonight from 7:00 - 8:30 PM for a meal and White Elephant gift exchange! Please RSVP today and let Jonathan know if you will bring a soup, bread or salad (Jbarney@Faithelmhurst.org)!

Senior Bible Study: We won't be having Senior Bible study on December 18 as previously scheduled. We'll conclude our Generosity study on Tuesday, January 15.

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 Dickens' characters: Ebenezer Scrooge, Jacob Marley, and the trio of Christmas ghosts. Light refreshments and coffee will be served. Please sign up today in the narthex if you'd like to come. The cost for this event is \$10 and payment should be made to the church office.

Ebenezer-Faith Partnership: As part of our church-to-church partnership this ministry year, Ebenezer CRC will be joining us here at Faith for our Christmas Day service.

A fun series of projects are being organized with the hope of involving help from as many hands in the congregation as possible. Our first project will be to make a set of matching quilts. One quilt will hang here at church, and one will hang in the orphanage we support in Honduras as a gift made by our congregation. We hope to have the quilts finished for Mission Emphasis week on February 17. On Tuesday, January 8 at 6:30 PM we invite everyone of all ages willing to help, meet us in the Fellowship Hall. We will be measuring, cutting, pinning and sewing materials to prepare the quilt. You do not need to know how to sew or quilt to help. Please sign up at the signup counter if you are interested in helping! Contact Niki Tazelaar with questions NikiTazelaar@gmail.com or 773-332-0405.

Faith Book Club has chosen *Prague Winter* by Madeleine Albright for discussion at their next meeting. Drawing on her memory, her parents' written reflections and newly available documents, the author recounts a tale that is in turns both harrowing and inspiring. Newcomers are welcome to join us on January 15 at 7:00 PM at Park Place.

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.

Crossroads is Growing! We have seen an overwhelming increase in the number of students in the Crossroads program since we began providing prepaid postage in January. Our office is bursting at the seams with incoming lessons from students! Each of these lessons represents a prisoner who is hungry for contact with the outside world and in need of the gospel of Christ. Will you consider joining the ministry of Crossroads as a mentor! Go to cpministries.org or contact Ray Middel at rmiddel6@gmail.com or call 630-862-1861 to learn more.

Calvin January Series: Faith will not be hosting the January Series in 2019. You can listen to the audio of current and previous presentations at www.Calvin.edu/January.

Make your Christmas shopping count! Don't forget to assign Faith CRC to your AmazonSmile account so that a percentage of everything you spend can be given back to Faith and we will put it towards our budget.

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

Youth News

Jr. Cadets & Cadets will be going to Lilacia Park in Lombard to see the Christmas Lights this Wednesday. We will leave Church at 6:30 PM & return at 8:30 PM. Please dress accordingly. Any questions call Lambert at 630-665-9422 or 630-346-8324.

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 is available online and due by January 6. Cost: \$95.

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 16

Choir Rehearsal, 11:00 AM
Orchestra Rehearsal, 4:00 PM
Young Adults, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, December 19

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

Thursday, December 20

A Christmas Carol, 10:00 AM

Serving Faith Church

Welcome Team: Sandy Turnbull **Next Week:** John Veldsema

Kitchen: Jim & Kathy Lindemulder*, Byron & Cathy Plate

Next Week: Val Hoving, Mary Huizinga*, Gary & Lisa Vander Naald

Library: Kathleen Glaubke, Laurie Wieringa **Next Week:** Chuck Slinkman

Audio Visual: Steve De Boer, Mary Huizinga, Chris Slinkman

Next Week: Dan Kooyenga, Al De Los Santos, Adam Zarek

Nursery Hostess: Flory Hoving **Next Week:** Sarah Schuringa

Infant Nursery: Jill Groenewold, Mindy Slinkman, Grace Lindemulder

Next Week: Kathy Miedema, Christina Muruato, Sophia Schuringa

Toddler Nursery: Becky Vander Naald, Laurie Vander Naald, Will Hoving

Next Week: Sue Dillon, Val Hoving, Emma Dillon

PM Nursery: Grace Harbaugh, Sam David

Next Week: Bethany Voss, Hannah Schuringa