

Church Calendar

Welcome guests and visitors! Elders will be up front with prayer nametags after the service, to answer any questions and pray with you. Please fill out a Connect Card (found in the pew Bibles). You can return the Connect Card to the Elder up front.

Sunday ~ December 29

Sunday School on Winter Break ~ resumes on Sunday, January 12th.

Pastor Bret Lamsma preaching; offering is for **Ignite Ministries**:

Ignite Ministries is a Denver based ministry that focuses on helping refugee youth meet Jesus and be discipled in His ways. Led by John Lewis and his son Matt, Ignite holds Friday night services that gather youth for a meal, a worship service and a time of teaching and prayer. They specifically have worked with youth from Burma/Myanmar, but welcome any refugee youth to their services. They are helping teens and middle-schoolers find a safe, Christ-centered place to build community in a new country.

Monday ~ December 30 ~ Office is closed

Tuesday ~ December 31

Wednesday ~ January 1 ~ Office is closed

Thursday ~ January 2

Friday ~ January 3

9:30am-11:30am **Library**

Saturday ~ January 4

7:00am – Men’s Morning Bible Study

Sunday ~ January 5: Grow Group Meals

Offering is for **JAMLAC** (part of Mile-high ministries) which works to provide holistic support and legal representation to impoverished people within the metro Denver community.

Thank you to all serving this Sunday, December 29

CIW: Jill Schreurs, Kyle Van Andel, Aaron Elgersma, Evelyn Keyes

Nursery Leader: Beth DeBoer, Lynn Roberts, Jill Newcombe, Karissa Lamsma

Camera: Matthew Jonker **Lyrics:** Davis Addink **Sound:** Paul DeBoer

Prayer Ministry Elders: Cal Van Heukelem, Anne Buteyn

Coffee: Schans/DenBraber

Thank you to all serving next Sunday, January 5

CIW: Becky Vermeer, Logan Posthumus, Wyatt Vermeer

Nursery Leader: Gina Van Byssum, Jeremy Waanders, Nancy & Ari Waanders

Camera: Owen Vermeer **Lyrics:** Lilli Vermeer **Sound:** Cory Vermeer

Prayer Ministry Elders: Fred Ritsema, Cathy VanDonselaar

Coffee: Young/Schaefer

January 12th Lord’s Supper: Cal Van Heukelem & Suzanne Natelborg

At-home Faith Formation Tip - As the year draws to a close, gather as a family or with friends to reflect on the events of the past 12 months and tell stories of how God guided, protected, convicted, loved, and provided for you. Hearing each others’ stories is one of the best ways to grow in faith! (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)

Reimbursements: Financial reimbursement forms, for personal expenditures on ministry items (Sunday School, Gems/Cadets, media center, etc.) can be found above the office door in the green folder labeled *Financial Reimbursement Forms*. Simply attach your receipt and return the form to the main office. We will turn it into the Treasurer for a check to be issued.

Missions Update:

See the Missions Table behind the sound booth, for the latest Newsletters from each of our Mission partners, locally and abroad.

For 20 years, Quiet Waters Ministry (a ministry formed by the Denver area CRC and RCA churches after Bethesda Hospital closed its doors) has provided excellent intensive counseling in a retreat home setting. Pastors and other Christian leaders find healing and restoration as well as skills for their future ministry through their experiences with licensed counselors. At this time, the ministry is busier than ever and they need help in two important ways:

1. **New Board members**, wise, experienced, leaders who have compassion for those who serve in ministry and who possess the skills to help organizations flourish.
2. **“Host Couples”** who have time to donate a week at a time to live in the QW Retreat House in Parker, CO alongside our clients who are there for intensive counseling sessions. These Host Couples cook and provide a homey atmosphere. They do not have to do the grocery shopping or the cleaning and training is provided to orient them to the responsibilities. Host Couples are the heartbeat of this ministry and those who serve in this capacity say that they are deeply blessed by the experience.

Contact Pastor Joel for more information - joel@firstcrcdenver.org

Grow Group Meal Locations for January 5:

North: Church Fellowship Hall 1814 S. Emerson St., Den 80210

Northeast: Morningside Clubhouse: 7100 E. Hamilton Place 80224

Northwest: Troy & Jill Newcombe’s: 2158 S. Clarkson, Denver 80210

South: Van Donselaar’s: 3736 East Easter Cir. S., 80122

Southeast: Jeremy & Karen Waanders’: 4175 S. Sidney Court, Den 80237

Southwest: Ed & Kay Schans’: 9801 S. Johnson St., Littleton 80127

Newcomers (not yet in a Grow group) and guests, are invited to enjoy lunch downstairs on January 5th.

January 15th is the First Family Night of 2020!

5:45pm: Family Night Meal served

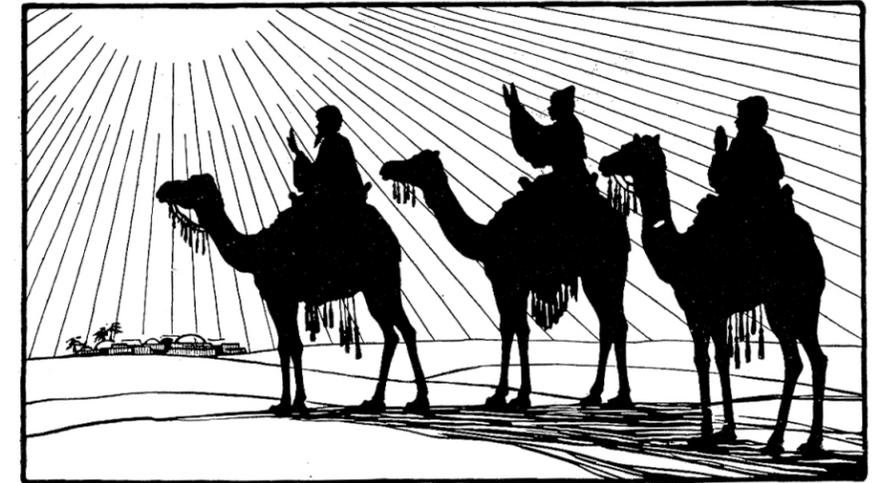
6:30pm: Council Meeting, GEMS/Cadets, Coffee Break, Movie Discussion

First Christian Reformed Church #303.733.4936

1814 South Emerson Street, Denver 80210

Church Office Hours: Tuesday ~ Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm

Pastor Joel Schreurs:	Minister of the Word	ext. 101
Shirley Van Heukelem:	Programs & Office Admin.	ext. 104
Kyle Cooper:	Worship Coordinator	ext. 103
Bret Lamsma:	Director of Faith Formation	ext. 105
Larry Young:	Custodial & facilities	#303-582-4039
Rebecca J. Schaefer	Communications & Admin.	ext. 102



A Family of God, Living our Faith and Growing by:

Joyfully surrendering to Jesus,

Freely sharing our lives and

Humbly embracing the hurting...

December 29, 2019 Gathering

Prelude

Welcome

Processional

Call to Worship:

God is here!

The Messiah has come!

We open our eyes to see Him and lift our hearts to worship Him.

We have come to exalt the name of Jesus, our Savior and King, and to bring glory to God the Father.

In our worship we demonstrate the mind of Christ in declaring to God that He is the supreme authority in our lives.

We bow before Him in submission to our Lord and King.

Come, worship the Lord!

*Song: *Joy to the World*

*Prayer Litany:

Jesus, Son of the living God, splendor of the Father, eternal light.

Lord, we praise you!

Jesus, King of glory, Sun of justice, Son of the virgin Mary.

Lord, we praise you!

Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, everlasting Lord, Prince of Peace.

Lord, we praise you!

Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, our help and our refuge.

Lord, we praise you!

Jesus, God of peace, friend of all, source of life and of holiness.

Lord, we praise you!

Jesus, brother of the poor, goodness without measure, unending wisdom.

Lord, we praise you!

Jesus, Good Shepherd, True Light, our way and our life.

Lord, we praise you! Amen.

*Songs:

Angels We Have Heard On High LUYH 82
Angels from the Realms of Glory LUYH 81 verses 1,2,4,5

*God's Greeting and Mutual Greeting

Renewal

Call to Prayer

Prayer for Renewal:

God of Glory,
Your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem
into the darkness of human night.
Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world so that
we, like Him, may become beacons of Your justice
and defenders of all for whom there is no room. Amen.

Song: *Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming* LUYH 79 verses 1,2,4

Offering: *Ignite Ministries*

Offertory: *Refugee King*

Word

Children In Worship Sending (Bret)

Delval, Marie-Hélène, and Arno. Psalms for Young Children. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans for Young Readers, 2008. Print.

Leader: When I listen to you, God,
I am like a tree planted by a river,
A tree full of fruit
With leaves that are always green.
Congregation: **The Lord be with you.**
Children: **And also with you.**

Scripture: Matthew 2:13-23 pg. 966

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon: *"What We've Been Waiting For"* Dr. Bret Lamsma

Prayer for Application

*Song of Response: *O Holy Night*

Sending

*Sending

*Sending Song: *As With Gladness Men of Old* LUYH 105 verses 1,3,4,5

*Blessing

*Postlude

Minister of the Word: Pastor Joel Schreurs
Director of Faith Formation: Dr. Bret Lamsma
Worship Coordinator: Kyle Cooper with First CRC Band

Up ~ Prayer and Praise

In January/February we will pray as a church for persecuted believers in Eritrea. Government security forces have continued to conduct numerous raids on Christians and house churches and have arrested hundreds of Christians who are being held by the government in miserable conditions. Christians are being forced to join the armed forces. Protestants, in particular, face serious problems with accessing community resources, especially social services provided by the state.

Praise the Lord for provision (through ministries like *Ignite*) for many homeless youth in Denver surviving on the streets.

Praise the Lord for placing the lonely in healthy, loving families.

Praise the Lord for protection for first-responders: fire-fighters, police officers and security personnel.

Praise the Lord for many working extra shifts at hospitals, senior living communities and shelters to provide care for others over the holidays.

Thank you for all the lovely gifts, cards, acts of service, words of encouragement and Christmas appreciation. We are grateful. The First CRC Staff

IN ~ Events & Upcoming Activities

Women's AM Bible Study meets every other Wednesday. The next meeting is **January 15 at 9:30am** in room 12/13, to study "*Cultures in Conflict*" by Ray Vander Laan. Led by Walt Ackerman.

Coffee Break ~ Women's Evening fellowship, prayer and Bible Study meets Wednesdays at **6:30pm** in the Emerson House next to church. Everyone is welcome! Led by Beth Posthumus.

Men's Wed. AM Bible Study in the Emerson House South of church, coffee is on at **7:30am** on Wednesday; Study begins at 8:00am. Led by Cal Van Heukelem.

Men's Sat. AM Bible Study in rm 21, *every other* Saturday **7AM**, next meeting: **January 4**. Led by Rod Osterhouse.

Sew & Sews: *Sew & Sews* next meeting is **January 9th, from 9-12n**, in room 12/13. Led by Joey VanderArk.

Card Stampers: Card Stamping Group is meeting **January 25th from 1-3pm** in rooms 12/13. Led by Carol Kats.

From January 12-February 2 Pastor Bret will be leading a discussion on the book "Growing With" during the Sunday School hour on Sunday mornings. Books are available in the back of church. Please help yourself to a book and sign up in the back of church. For more information, please talk to Pastor Bret.

OUT ~ Serving & Sharing

Joyfully Surrendering To Jesus ~

Teach in Kazakhstan! - Resonate partner Tien Shan International School in Kazakhstan is looking for passionate teachers for a variety of subjects, from history and science to language arts, PE, music and drama. If you're interested in teaching in a cross-cultural setting, this is the perfect opportunity. Learn more by visiting www.resonateglobalmission.org/go

Freely Sharing Our Lives ~

The Journey of Longmont, CO will celebrate their 20th Anniversary on **January 26, 2020** at the 10:07 am service. You are invited to join us!

Church Leadership, A Home-Rebuilding Opportunity - Do you wonder how your church offerings to World Renew Disaster Response Services make a difference? Have you wanted to experience what it is like to repair disaster-damaged homes? **Consider volunteering Monday – Friday, March 23-27, in North Carolina** and find out for yourself! This is a week specifically for pastors and/or church staff leaders to work together and get directly involved in this ministry. Contact Chris Gibson at cgibson@worldrenew.net or 800-848-5818 to learn more.

Humbly Embracing The Hurting ~

Family Promise: Thank you to everyone; and bless all guests to our church home. Next Family Promise week is: **February 9-16**.

Circle of Hope encouragement group for those with loved ones navigating mental health issues, meets the second Saturday of the month: **January 11**, from 10:00am-12:00pm in room 21.

Council News:

In their December meeting, the Council discussed the process and possible replacements for outgoing Deacons (James Timmer and Aaron Buys) and Elders (Anne Buteyn and Cal VanHeukelem) this summer. First Church is blessed to have so many gifted individuals called to serve in this way and we look forward to ongoing conversation and encouragement. If you feel called to serve at First CRC in the role of Elder or Deacon, or know of someone who is gifted in these areas, please contact a Pastor, the Clerk of Council or any Elder or Deacon, we would love to hear from you!

The January Series: www.crcna.org cultivates deep thought and conversations about important issues of the day in order to inspire cultural renewal and make us better global citizens in God's world. We invite you to join us at this FREE 15-day lecture series that takes place each January on the campus of Calvin University. Our 2020 series will take place on weekdays from **January 8–28, 2020 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. EST**. Save the dates and we hope you can join us onsite, at any one of our 60+ remote sites, or online for LIVE audio streaming! Denver Christian is the site for our area:

Contact: Steve Kortenhoven
3898 S. Teller St
Lakewood, CO 80235
(303) 733-2421

www.denverchristian.org

Note: 10:30 a.m. start time (Mountain Standard Time)