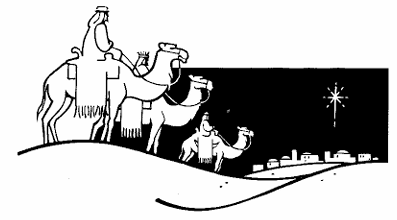
The Reformed Church of Steen

Sunday, December 22, 2024



Phone: 507-855-2336

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Website: [www.steenchurch.org](http://www.steenchurch.org)



**The Consistory**

Elders: Deacons: Lowell Bonnema Justin Esselink

Marlin Elbers Randy Fick

Kraig Scholten Dylan Bosch

Norm Sjaarda Chad Rauk

Brad Bosch Chris Harnack

Larry Bosch Tyler DenHerder

Pastor Jeremy Wiersema (712)324-1345

**Morning Service at 9:30 a.m.**

Prelude

\*Welcome/Call to Worship ~ Deuteronomy 6:5

\*Mutual Greetings

\*Opening Songs ~ Kid’s Praise Team

“Christmas Medley”

Advent Reading ~ Trevor & Kendra Paulsen

Advent Hymn #133 “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” vs 1

Congregational Prayer

Children’s Message ~ Eric Kiers

Dismiss 3-year-olds to Sunday School

Ministry of Music ~ Choir

Scripture ~ Luke 2:1-7 pg 1590

Message ~ “InnKeepers Make Room for Jesus”

Prayer Time of Self Examination

MINISTER: People of God, we will be celebrating together, on Christmas Eve with the gracious help of God, the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

**CONGREGATION: In order that we may celebrate the Lord’s Supper and its significance in our lives, it is necessary that we examine our motives and attitudes as we come to this Supper.**

MINISTER: First, let everyone consider their sins, asking yourself if you believe God’s promise that all your sins are forgiven and that Christ’s death and resurrection have enabled us to receive his grace.  We are reminded that this gift has enabled us to demonstrate thankfulness to God and to live for him as we live in love and peace with our neighbor.

**CONGREGATION: If we are of this attitude, God will welcome us in love and consider us worthy participants at the Table of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

MINISTER: We also are reminded that the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ instruct those who are continuing in unrepentant sin to keep themselves from the Lord’s Table.

This is not intended to distress those who have asked for forgiveness of their sins, but to remind the unrepentant of the nature of their sin and to direct them to forgiveness by our Savior Jesus Christ.

**ALL: Let us celebrate God’s loving kindness and anticipate joining together in one body under the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Announcements

Offertory Prayer/Offering

Offertory Song ~ “He’s the Reason for the Season”

\*Benediction

\*Closing Song ~ “He’s the Reason for the Season” chorus only

\*Please stand if you are able

We want to thank Doug VanAartsen for leading the service this morning.

No Sunday School today

No evening service tonight

No Midweek activities on Wednesday

**Bible Verse of the Month:**

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart**

**and with all your soul**

**and with all your strength.**

**Deuteronomy 6:5**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth,

as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**The Apostles’ Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

I believe in Jesus Christ His only son, our Lord;

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,

the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

***Activities for the Week***

***Tuesday:* ~** Christmas Eve Service at 6:00. Bring non-perishable food items wrapped in white paper as offering. We are collecting for the Rock County Food Shelf.

***Friday: ~*** Game Night at 7:00



If anyone needs a ride or would like a ride to church, please call the church office by Thursday of that week.

***Announcements & Events***

**Game Night** will be held this Friday, Dec. 27th at 7:00. You are asked to bring a game and a snack to share. There will also be pickleball. Come out for a fun night of fellowship and friendly competition. Contact Annie Bos with any questions.

Please have your January calendar announcements in to Tammy by Friday morning.

On December 30th at 7:00 p.m., parents and high school students are invited to attend a meeting discussing ideas surrounding the time and frequency of RCYF. The consistory and sponsors along with the search team will be attending and participating in this meeting also. The point of the meeting is to make a recommendation that will best enable the church to minister effectively to high school youth in the foreseeable future. Please come and plan on participating in

this discussion.

Sunday School will resume January 5, 2025. There will be a Sunday School meeting on January 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Consistory room. There should be at least one teacher from each class present.

**Hope Haven Presents: The Dueling Duo’s** – Come enjoy a Dueling Piano Show on Thursday, January 9 at The District in Sioux Falls featuring Andy and Ryno. This is the perfect event to enjoy some great music requested by the audience, spend a night with your friends and support Hope Haven. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 8 p.m. Purchase tickets at hopehaven.org/events

The Justice for All Mission Trip to Grace Covenant Ministries at Annville, Kentucky, will be held March 1 - 7.   We are teaming up with the First Reformed Church in Rock Rapids for this mission trip.  Deadline to sign up for this trip is February 1st.  Anyone interested in serving on this trip is invited to the next mission committee meeting being held Wednesday, January 8th at 7:30 or you can contact Dave Tilstra.

**“Common Grounds” Coffee Bar:** Beginning Sunday,

January 5th, there will be a self-serve coffee bar available before church starting around 9:00 a.m.  We will be supporting a local mission by purchasing the coffee, which is grown in Haiti , from Rosie's in Rock Rapids.  Rosie's is part of Touch of Hope Haiti; this non-profit supports a school and orphanage in Haiti.  Cups with lids will be available but you are encouraged to bring your own coffee mug each Sunday if you would like to enjoy a cup of coffee during the service.  Although the coffee bar is self-serve, we still need someone to come each week and start the coffee pot around 8:00 a.m. and set out the supplies.  The person in charge of preparing the coffee on Sunday is in charge of asking someone else to prepare the coffee the following Sunday or they will again be in charge of preparing coffee the following Sunday.  The person in charge one week will be asked to write the name of the person in charge for the following week on the coffee bar calendar in the kitchen.  The goal is to get as many people as possible to help with this so no one person needs to be early every Sunday.  Coffee will be allowed in the sanctuary as long as the cup/mug has a lid.  If for some reason coffee gets spilled, please be respectful and clean up the spill after the service is over.  Vonnie Baker and Eunice Rozenboom are the "Common Grounds" coffee bar coordinators.  Coffee bar preparation instructions will be posted in the kitchen.

**Lyon County Food Shelf needs:** "child friendly" items such as soup, crackers, canned fruit, fruit cups, and juice pouches.



Bernice Tilstra is celebrating her 86th birthday today.

**A Note From the Librarian:** The library has lots of new books! The featured book is "The One Year Book of Hymns",

a devotional for the year based on hymns. Also, young readers, we have a new series of chapter books to check out:

"The Secret of the Hidden Scrolls"!

The cart still has free books, so continue to help yourself to those.

Thank you for your prayers and the gift you sent in 2024. May God bless you all in 2025.

Shawn Cornett

Bible League

***Opportunities to Serve the Body of Christ***

**This Week Next Week**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Organist | Kid’s Praise Team | Glenda Sandstede |
| Ushers | Stan Metzger  Kyle VanRuler  Dave Tilstra | Stan Metzger  Kyle VanRuler  Dave Tilstra |
| Nursery | Debbie Tilstra  Mallorie Boeve  Earl Moser | Tom & Kathy Keller  AnnMarie Wiersema |
| Greeters | Eric Vahl & Rozella Vahl  Mel & Minnie VanBatavia | Marion & Carol VanBemmel  Glenn & Connie VandeKamp |
| Children’s  Message | Eric Kiers | Stephanie Roozenboom |
| Camera | Sawyer Bosch | Sawyer Bosch |
| PowerPoint | Chase Bosch | Chase Bosch |
| Sound | Tim Bosch | Tim Bosch |
| Coffee | Bernice Tilstra |  |
| Ministry of  Music | Josh & Tanya Teune | Arlyn & Melanie Tilstra |

Thank-you, Reformed Church of Steen, for a wonderful, impactful gift of $6000! Outside my office window is the color green, even this time of year; it's in the form of evergreen bushes with a little white snow decorating the tops. Evergreens can always grow, even during a Midwest winter. The greens, and the whites, remind me of how our redeeming God knows each person, and by His grace, He has given them the capacity to know Him back. In our Gospel outreach to new Americans, we are blessed to know many who identify with religions which do not know God as the Bible teaches. It's fulfilling to work in, and to empower other believers to work in, the harvest fields of Him who "is patient..., not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). Your support makes a big difference in that.

Fred W., New Roots Ministry, Sioux Falls



* Those that are homebound and in nursing homes:

Anna Mae Berghorst, John Bosch, and Lucy VanWyhe.

* Those in our church and community who are dealing with cancer: Marv Albers, Doug Boeve, Erwin Bonestroo, Heather Johnson, Shane McMath, Seth Rozeboom, Starla Scholten, Rick Tatge and Sheila Vis.
* Rich VanDerBrink as he does therapy on his shoulder.
* Ron VanRuler is back home and doing well.
* Sympathy to the Schouwenburg family. Anna passed away on Thursday.
* The vacant churches of the Alliance of Reformed Churches.

If you need to get in contact with the church secretary, Tammy Bos, you can do so by email, [steenreformed@alliancecom.net](mailto:steenreformed@alliancecom.net), by calling the church during her posted office hours, or by calling/texting her at 605-951-8254. Thank you!

This week’s office hours ~ Monday 9:00-12:00

Tuesday 9:00-12:00

Thursday 9:00-11:00

Friday 9:00-12:00

The pastor’s family was invited to a Christmas dinner at the Olson’s home. Mrs. Olson was widely known for her amazing contributions to church potlucks. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. As usual, it was a feast for the eyes, the nose and the palate.

When the pastor’s son, Peter, received his plate he started eating straight away.

“Peter, wait until we say grace,” insisted his embarrassed father.

“I don’t have to,” the five year old replied.

“Of course you do, Peter,” his mother insisted rather forcefully. “We always say a prayer before eating at our house.”

“That’s our house,” Peter explained, “but this is Mrs. Olson’s house and she knows how to cook.”

**Consistory Meeting**

**December 16, 2024 at 8:10 p.m.**

Members present were Lowell Bonnema, Norm Sjaarda, Randy Fick, Chris Harnack, Kraig Scholten, Tyler DenHerder, Brad Bosch, Chad Rauk, Larry Bosch, Marlin Elbers, Pastor Jeremy and guest Dave Tilstra. A quorum was present.

Justin Esselink led opening devotions from Ezekiel 16:4 and a Devotional called “Cut The Cord” and opened the meeting with prayer. The minutes of the November 18 regular meeting were read for information.

**Mission Committee Report:** Dave Tilstra presented some ideas for local missions. On December 29, Megan DeRyter will meet with the mission committee after church looking for support. Also, the mission committee is looking for volunteers to go to Kentucky for a work project. On January 5th, there will be a meeting for 18-35 year olds.

**Elder’s Meeting Report:** Approved profession of faith for Dean and Brittany Fuerstenberg and baptism for their daughter Hattie on January 5th. There will be communion on Christmas Eve.

**Christian Education:** Discussed notifying vice president of consistory when there is no Sunday School or Midweek.

**Property:** Missy Bosch to rent fellowship hall on December 28, 2024. Amanda Rozeboom to rent multi-purpose room on May 31, 2025. The new stoves were ordered.

**Old Business:** There was a zoom meeting for the Associate Ministry position. Hope to have him come in January. Monday, December 30 at 7:00 p.m., there will be a meeting about the RCYF. A list of individuals with various church responsibilities was presented for printing on the back page of the bulletin. M/S/C to go ahead with this.

**New Business:** Church cancellation notifications will be left on phone messages preferably by 7:30 a.m. Midwest Network newsletter was presented. Cal Spronk hopes to come to next meeting about Cadets and Gems youth programming. Discussed possible Rocky like events for the RCYF. Pastor’s review was favorable.

**Financial Reports:** General Fund $35,440.81; Benevolent Fund $13,777.92;

Building Fund $2,202.12. Building fund loan balance is $17,000.00. M/S/C to approve reports.

The minutes of tonight’s meeting were read. M/S/C to approve minutes as read. M/S/C to adjourn. Prior to adjournment, Larry Bosch closed with prayer. The next consistory meeting will be Monday, January 20, 2025.