

Matthew 1:18–25
The Glory of Christmas

Main Point: To receive our King in worship and faithfulness, we must behold the glory of heaven coming to earth at Christmas.

I. The Ordinary Circumstances of Christmas (1:18-19, 24-25)

- Human Fear

- Human Faithfulness

II. The Extraordinary Significance of Christmas (1:20-22)

- God Coming as Savior

- God Coming as Immanuel



Faith Reformed
BOLDLY LIVING GOD'S WORD

December 8, 2024

Prelude
Congregational Sharing
*Greeting One Another

Nicole Velzke

APPROACH TO GOD

*Call to Worship From Psalm 130
*Song of Praise
Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel
*Prayer of Praise

RENEWAL IN CHRIST

Confession of Sin
Assurance of Forgiveness Isaiah 53:4-6
*Song of Assurance
I Will Wait for You

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18-25
Sermon "The Glory of Christmas"
Sacrament of Communion

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RESPONSE TO GOD

Offertory Prayer
Song of Response O Come All Ye Faithful
*Affirmation of Faith WLC Q. 41-42
Congregational Prayer
*Benediction
*Doxology
*Postlude

Nicole Velzke

*Congregation standing if able

FAITH REFORMED CHURCH

Rev. Zach Tarter, Pastor *Jon Damkot, Youth Director*
243 S 4th St, Cedar Grove, WI 53013 920.668.6725

Our Worship

As we gather to worship this morning through faith in Christ, we are entering into conversation with God as He speaks in His Word and is with us by the Spirit. Our worship service has an intentional movement that focuses on the Gospel:

- We begin with our **APPROACH TO GOD**, hearing a call to worship from His word and then responding to Him with songs and prayers of praise.
- We then have a time of **RENEWAL IN CHRIST** in which we confess our sins and hear His promise of forgiveness in His word and through song.
- Assured of His grace, we then listen to **THE WORD OF GOD** as it is preached from our passage for that day, and we all receive the sacrament of communion monthly as a “visible word” from God.
- After hearing the Word preached, we end our service with our **RESPONSE TO GOD**. We give offerings, affirm our faith, pray for needs in the congregation and world, and hear a blessing from God before singing a final praise to Him.

Through it all, God intends to bless us and change us by His grace so that we would go into the world to live for His glory. So let us come in humble faith, ready to hear and respond to our God and Savior.

Reflection

“The Son of God did not want to be seen and found in heaven. Therefore, He descended from heaven into this humility and came to us in our flesh, laid Himself into the womb of his mother and into the manger and went onto the cross. This was the ladder that He placed on earth so that we might ascend to God on it” (Martin Luther).

If you wish to reach Pastor Zach, you may dial the church office or reach him by cell phone at 920-212-5489. His office hours are Tuesday – Friday 9:30 – 5:30. If you are unable to reach Pastor Zach you may contact the Elder on call. Elder on call for December is Rob Danforth (920-467-1446).

Prayer Guide

Praises and Thanksgivings

Jesus Resurrection
Our living hope in Jesus

Petitions

That our state and nation would value life and protect life in the womb
For people to hear the gospel hope
A heart of submission to Christ
Spiritual wisdom and discernment
Commitment to be reading Scripture
Discipline and courage to obey
To be guided by Scripture, not culture
Courage to stand firm for the gospel
Our ministry in the PCA
Pastor Zach Tarter
Jon Damkot – Youth Director
BJ Hilbelink – Pastoral Assistant
Lincoln Rus – Pastoral Apprentice
Disciple making at Faith Reformed
Spiritual revival
Our government leaders
Our youth to grow in Christ
Those serving in the military
The Unity of Cedar Grove churches
Those with addictions/in jail or prison
Our persecuted brothers & sisters

Health

Linda Dykstra – prayers that her shoulder would heal well and she would not need surgery
Ruth Ann Wieberdink –prayers for continued healing
Donna Caljouw – prayers as she goes back on her cancer medication that it will not have an adverse effect on her body in other ways as before
Don Teunissen – prayers for healing of an infection that has been found in his leg and praise that the rod is now out of his leg, and he can sit up again
Jeff Debbink – prayers that the chemo would be affective to heal his cancer
Keith R. – (cancer)

Shut-ins

Wayne Navis
Delores Droppers – Cedar Grove Gardens, Building 1 – room 15
Herb Dirkse – Cedar Grove Gardens, Building 2 – room 10
Don Schreurs – Oostburg Pine Haven Campus – room 115 prayer as he has been put on hospice
Jean Schreurs – Oostburg Pine Haven Campus – room 112

Mission & Outreach

Frontiers – Jon Wynveen
On Wisconsin Network
Future Church Planting Efforts
For our unchurched neighbors
For calm and peace in Bangladesh and for the safety of all Compassion sponsored children

Schedule

TODAY

Worship Service – 9:00am
Congregational Meeting
Christmas Program Practice – 10:30am
Core – 6:00pm

Tuesday – 12:00 – 5:30pm Blood Drive
6:00pm – Worship Team Meeting

Wednesday – 6:00pm Connect
-6:30pm Quest
-6:30pm Prayer Meeting

Thursday – 4:30-6:00pm Food Pantry

UPCOMING EVENTS AT FAITH:

December 22nd Children's Christmas Program
December 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Ushers for December: Ward Meinen, Glen Ten Dolle, Chris Konzak

Nursery for December 8: Jodi Danforth, Elise Brill, Nolan Meinen

Nursery for December 15: Alison Zimmermann, Rebecca Tarter, Harper Meinnert

Refreshments for December: Care Group #5 (Mel & Kim)

Greeters December 8 – **Narthex:** Jeff & Katy Heinen Family
- **Great Room:** Matt & Macy Ewing Family

Greeters December 15 - **Narthex:** BJ & Colette Hilbelink Family
- **Great Room:** Mark & Janice Hesselink

Serving in the Military:

Jackson DeRuyter
49 EMS
PO Box 1338
Holloman AFB, NM 88330

Family Life at Faith

The Cedar Grove Area Food Pantry served 40 families at the November Food Pantry. The next Food Pantry will be held on Thursday, December 12th. **We are currently low on cereal, canned fruits & vegetables, soup and mac n cheese. We are also in need of gloves and mittens for adults and children.** If you could help us serve one month – please contact Faith Reformed Church (920-668-6725). Thank you for your generosity!

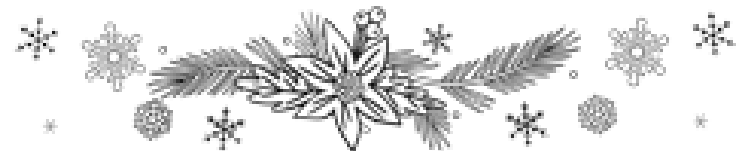
In December we will be collecting items that are needed at Anchor of Hope: diapers (all sizes), wipes, diaper cream, pacifiers, baby bottles, baby bottle nipples and diaper bags. All items can be placed in the grey bin in the Great Room

Ladies, mark your calendars for the 2025 Women's Conference at Faith Reformed Church for Saturday, February 8th, 2025, from 8:00 AM - 12:15 PM.

Christmas Cards for our missionaries have been placed on a table in the great room. They will be out until December 15th. Please take the time to sign them, letting them know we are thinking of them during the Christmas season.

The Care Connection is asking for volunteers to continue to communicate with cards or words of encouragement to Kelly Wieberdink. Kelly is the daughter of Shirley Wieberdink and is living at Trempealeau County Health Care Center. She really enjoys getting cards from us. Let's continue to make her feel that she is being thought of and prayed for even though she is separated from family and people she is familiar with. You can sign up on the sheet in the information center. Her address is:

Trempealeau Co. Health Care Center
Kelly Wieberdink – Courage Center
W20410 State Rd 121
White Hall, WI 54773



Family Life at Faith

Special birthdays in December:

Lynn Navis turned 78 on December 3rd

Lindsay Dykstra will turn 76 on December 23rd

Care Groups

Reminder to complete your volunteer "Faith Cares" forms and put them in the mailbox for Dan Weiss.

Additional forms can be found on the information table.

Also, a link is available on our website if you prefer to complete online.

This can be found on the "About" tab and then "Membership" and then the underlined "Care Group Form" at the bottom.

Please continue to be in prayer for Mara (Jeff and Paula Risseeuw's daughter) and her unborn twins. We continue to pray for good heart, brain and cord dopplers each week, normal growth and for her water not to break prematurely.

In the information center you will find a **Reverse Advent Calendar for the Food Pantry**. Please feel free to fill a box and return the items to church. Through your giving you will be making a big difference in our community.

Youth News

CORE (Grades 6-12) - ***Tonight, December 8th*** Core small group Bible studies meet at **Faith Reformed** from **6:00-7:00PM!**

CONNECT (Grades 6-12) - **Wednesday, December 11th** students are invited to Connect with each other and God at **Faith Reformed** from **6:00-7:30PM!** Worship begins at 6:20.

QUEST (Grades 5K-5) - **Wednesday, December 11th** Quest will meet at **Faith Reformed** from **6:30-7:30PM**. Registration and games begin at 6:00.

HS FORT WINTER RETREAT - All high schoolers are invited to our annual weekend retreat at Crescent Lake Bible Camp from **January 10-12, 2025**. Forms including trip information can be found at the link, which can be turned in at Connect or the outdoor dropbox at Faith **before Friday, January 3rd**. <https://tinyurl.com/45pc7wvd>

