

HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Morning Worship Service – 9:30 am
December 17 2023

*** Third Sunday of Advent ***

The People of God Gather:

Prelude

Welcome & Call to Worship

God's Greeting

Greet One Another

To Praise God

Worthy, You are Worthy

Once in Royal David's City

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Prayer of Praise

To Pray and Serve God

Announcements

Congregational Prayer

To Proclaim God's Word

Children's Message & Advent Candle Lighting

Song of Preparation: *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-17

Sermon: Not the King We Hope For

Prayer of Response

Song of Response/Offertory: *Joy to the World*

Offerings: 1st: General Fund; 2nd: Existing Building Fund

To Go in God's Name

God's blessing

Closing Song: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You*

Postlude

***Our Nursery is available downstairs for children ages 0 - 3 years old.
Children's Church is available downstairs for children age 3 years old - Kindergarten
following the children's message.*

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

Tuesday, January 9

6:30 pm -Elders

7:00 pm -Deacons

7:30 pm -Council

PREACHING SCHEDULE:

December 3 – Rev. Ashley Bonnes

December 10 – Rev. Mark Bonnes

December 17 – Rev. Mark Bonnes

December 24 am – Rev. Mark Bonnes

December 24 pm – Rev. Mark Bonnes

December 31 am – Rev. Mark Bonnes

December 31 pm – Rev. Mark Bonnes

HIGHLAND COUNCIL:

Officers for 2023:

President	Jon Dracht	Pastor Mark Bonnes Pastor Ashley Bonnes *personal contact info is not posted online. Please call the church office.
Vice President	Don Eisenga	
Clerk	Alan Baas	
Sec. of Deacons	Kyle Meyering	
Vice Treas.	Kasey Rees	

Districts for 2023:

Elders	District	Deacons
Den Kamphouse	#1, A-C	David Wing
Alan Baas	#2, D-E	Kyle Meyering
Jon Dracht	#3, F-L	Devon Dracht
Paul Shaarda	#4, M-O	Kasey Rees
Don Eisenga	#5, P-T	Scott Oeverman
Don Ellens	#6, U-Z	Anne Thomas

Church Office

(231) 825-2171

office@highlandcrc.org

Normal Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 8:30 am – 2:00 pm

Fri-Sun: Closed

**All Bulletin announcements must be submitted to the office by noon on Thursdays.

Ministry Team Leaders

Care & Fellowship Team (Cindy Vennema)

Education Team (Megan Pluger)

Facilities Team (Greg Hesselink)

Outreach Team (Jodi DeHate)

Prayer Team (Sandy Rice)

Service Team (Carrie Thompson)

Worship Team (DaNay Tossey)

Thank You: Dear Congregation of Highland Christian Reformed Church, I want to express to you my gratitude for your continued support of Northern Michigan Christian School. Your investment in the lives of young people will have eternal results. I am reminded of the apostle Paul as he opens his letter to the Church of Philippi, "I thank my God every time I remember you" (Philippians 1:3). Thank you for partnering with us to build God's Kingdom and helping us challenge minds, nurture the hearts, and developing the gifts of our students. Sincerely, Scott Curell, Superintendent, NMCS.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS:

November meeting -

1. The elders received and approved a request that the memberships of Scott & Diane VanPolen & family be transferred to Aetna CRC.

Congregational meeting -

1. The budget was approved as presented.
 2. The following individuals were elected to the offices of elder and deacon for the 2024-2025 term:

Elders - Mark Eisenga, Jerry Nemeth, Bob Vennema
 Deacons - Gary Hesselink, Carrie Thompson, Curt Wemple

December meeting -

1. Council approved financial support for one of our high school students to attend a retreat at Spring Hill Camp. There are additional monies available for young people who would like financial support to attend retreats. Please talk to Pastor Mark or another youth group leader if you are interested.
 2. Installation Sunday is planned for Sunday, January 7, 2024.
 3. Council discussed and hopes to have a half day Council retreat in February.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

November General Fund		2nd Offerings	
5 th	5,266.00	Booster Club	1,467.00
12 th	7,680.00	World Renew	1478.00
19 th	5,197.00	Church Building Fund	905.00
Thanksgiving	6,620.00	Thanksgiving	20008.00
26 th	7,826.31	Love In The Name of Christ	1,003.00
Total November Offerings	32,589.31		
Budget needed weekly	6,184.04		
Times 39 weeks	296,833.99		
Received to date	<u>308,222.82</u>		
Balance	11,388.83		

PRAYER CONNECTIONS:

Please continue to pray for our Church Secretary, **Sara Bruno** who broke the lower part of her leg on December 4. She had surgery the same day and is home recovering. Please pray for healing and patience. **Please note that our regular office hours will be modified until further notice as we work to reorganize in her absence. Please submit all bulletin announcements via the church email, office@highlandcrc.org. For any urgent church matters, please call either Pastor Mark or Pastor Ashley directly.

Dan Ouwinga will be having knee replacement surgery tomorrow (the 18th). Please pray for a successful surgery and good recovery for Dan.

Please pray for Paul Shaarda as he has gall bladder surgery on Thursday, December 21 in Cadillac, and then tongue surgery in Traverse City on January 9.

Weekly Prayer Emphasis:

During the month of December, we want to focus on Peace and Reconciliation:

- **This Sunday**, we pray for peace in our families.
- **In the coming week and next Sunday**, we pray for peace in our world and between neighbors.

 **Our Missionaries:**

- o **Josh & Mandy Shaarda & Family** (Serving in Uganda)
 Email: jshaarda@crcnapartners.org; Blog: <http://shaarda.blogspot.com>
- o **George & Sarah de Vuyst & Family** (Serving in Ukraine & the U.S.)
 Email: gdevuyst@crcna.org; Website: <http://www.devuysts.com>

 **Our Active Military:**

- o **SSgt, Tyler Bode** (US Airforce; currently stationed in Italy).

OUR CHURCH WEEK: DECEMBER 17-23

SUN 12/17	9:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:40 AM ----- 6:00 PM	Prayer Worship Service SS & MS Christmas Program Practice; HS Catechism – Reg. lesson No Fellowship Bible Study (December & January) SS Christmas Program and Light Show
TUES 12/19	9:30 AM	Ladies Bible Study Christmas Brunch
WED 12/20	6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Family Night Dinner Centershot, GEMS & Prayer Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Highland’s Annual Sunday School Christmas Program and Middle School Light Show - December 17 at 6:00 PM

- **Sunday School’s Christmas Program Practice** TODAY in the sanctuary during the normal Sunday School hour. **Parents-** please ensure your child is present for this practice after the worship service if they would like to participate in the Christmas program. Please contact Carrie Thompson or Anne Thomas with any questions.
- **Middle School Light Show Practice today:** If you are planning to participate in the Light Show this year please meet in the Middle School Room downstairs directly after the worship service. **Parents-** please reach out to Becky Wemple for any questions.
- **HS Catechism** will meet in the Youth Building for their regular lesson today.

Highland’s Annual Sunday School Christmas Program & Light Show: Please come this evening for our annual Highland Sunday School Christmas Program starting at 6pm. All children in grades PreK-8th will participate. Come for an evening of traditional Christmas carols and the Christmas Story, as well as our (nearly) famous Middle School Light Show! Cookies, milk and coffee to follow!!

Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study (w/ Hilda) is having their Christmas brunch on December 19th at 9:30 am.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 6 pm next Sunday, December 24. Join us in this special celebration of Christ’s birth.

New Year’s Eve Combined Communion Service: Highland CRC has invited area churches to join us for a New Year’s Eve Communion Service at 6 pm on Sunday, December 31.

Our Fellowship Bible Study group will be on break for the months of December and January. Details on their next study will be posted in mid-January.

Our Family Night Dinner this Wednesday, December 20, will be a pizza party topped off with homemade Christmas Cookies. Please sign up at the information table in the fellowship hall if you would like to donate cookies.

New Prayer Resources are now available on the table in the east wing. New materials including some DVDs as well as assorted books for kids! New DVD titles include: “*The Chosen*” (DVDs: Seasons 1-3) and “*Christmas with The Chosen*”. New books titles include: “*My First Read and Learn Book of Prayers*”, “*The Power of a Praying Girl*”, “*You Can Pray Big Things*”, and “*Any Time, Any Place, Any Prayer*”. Please remember to return items to the table when you are done with them so they can be shared.

Greeters: Beginning the first of the year, we are planning to have greeters once again at the sanctuary doors. If you are interested in serving Highland CRC in this way, please sign-up at the information table.

Winter Clothing Drive: We are again having a Winter Clothing Drive for the Marion Public Schools. Coats (all sizes), boots (all sizes), snow pants (all sizes, preferably black in color), and gloves are needed (we are good in the hat department!). All donations should be new or gently used. Donations will be delivered throughout the winter months.

Single MOMM Nonprofit: Started in 2008, Single MOMM is a non-profit organization that started in the Traverse City area and is slowly expanding services to Wexford, Missaukee and Osceola Counties. It is a ministry that "addresses the core issues of single motherhood and provides innovative and diverse solutions for families desiring to reach self-sufficiency." More information can be found at their website: www.singlemomm.org.

***As a Service Team project, Highland Church will be helping to provide this organization with \$25 Meijer gift cards that they can then hand out to their clients, depending upon their specific need/situation. Cards can be used for general merchandise, food or gas. A Christmas tree full of tags has been placed in the fellowship hall. Each tag represents a \$25 gift card that we need. Please take a tag if you are willing to buy a \$25 Meijer gift card. Gift cards should be turned in to either Carrie Thompson, Sara Bruno or Pastor Ashley Bonnes. Our goal is to gather 40 gift cards by **TODAY, December 17th** to donate to this great organization!! **Please note that we will NOT be calling to request the purchase of gift cards over the phone or online. If you receive one of those calls, hang up.

Marion Food Pantry: Thank you so much Highland congregation! Over 50 bags of diapers were collected! The current needs are small cereal boxes, any type of shelf-stable potatoes (canned, instant, boxed varieties) mac & cheese, and egg noodles.



Poinsettias in Loving Memory of:



Helen VanHaitsma
 Brenda VanHouten
 Tena & Al Medendorp
 Dick Dorman
 Adrian & Freda Kamphouse
 Whip Koetje
 June & Ada Oeverman
 Tom & Shirley Boven
 Anna Fredin
 Sarah Fredin
 Marian Fredin
 Jake & Jo Eisenga
 Hank & Reka Eisenga
 Ben Eisenga
 Jerry Eisenga
 Josie Thompson
 Bob & Gerry Dore
 John & Anne Vennema
 John Dracht, Sr.
 Bill VanPolen
 Elton & Hilda Sikkema
 Ralph & Marie Brinks

Thanksgiving Offering Breakdown	
General	6,620.00
Booster Club	1,520.00
Church Building Fund	2,278.00
Benevolence	2,325.00
George & Sarah Devuyst	2,390.00
Josh & Mandy Shaarda	3,590.00
Matt & Emily Slack	2,575.00
NMC Tuition	1,465.00
Highland Home Missions	225.00
Friends Ministry	100.00
Friendship Family Homes	425.00
REV Moms	100.00
World Renew	2,395.00
NMC Endowment	500.00
Sound Booth	100.00
Other	<u>100.00</u>
	26,708.00