NURSERY:

Dec 26	Jodi Meyering, Mikayla Powers, Lindsay Beerens		
Dec 20	Jackie Schmid, Megan Pluger, Patti Koop		
Jan 2	Lizelle Bazuin, Aubrynn Bazuin, Kasey McQuestion,		
Jan Z	Amy Eisenga, Claire Thompson, Addean Oeverman		
Jan 9	Becky Wemple, Shari Benthem, Jayden Benthem		
Jan 3	Diane Eisenga, Dana Baas, Franklin Baas		
Jan 16	Ruth Kulhawick, Melissa Oeverman, Emma Oeverman		
Jan 10	Sue Cook, Megan Benthem, Kendyn Meyering		

LITTLE LAMBS / CHILDREN IN WORSHIP:

Dec 26	LL Teacher: Nicole Schultz, Helper: Addean Oeverman		
Dec 20	CIW Teacher: Anne Thomas; Helper: Karsyn Meyering		
Jan 2	LL Teacher: Makayla Powers; Helper: Harper Tossey		
	CIW Teacher: Jodi DeHate; Helper: Karianne Smith		
Jan 9	LL Teacher: Amy VanPolen; Helper: Alan Thomas		
	CIW Teacher: Lizelle Bazuin; Helper: JD Bazuin		
Jan 16	LL Teacher: Cindy Vennema; Helper: Jordyn Richardson		
	CIW Teacher: Maggie Southwick; Helper: Emerson Tossey		

SOUND / VIDEO / POWERPOINT:

Dec 26	Cary Sikkema; Dan Ouwinga; Sue Cook		
Jan 2	Jan 2 Cary Sikkema; Roger Hagerman; Jodi DeHate		
Jan 9	an 9 Matt Thompson; Deb Eisenga; Kendra Jenema		
Jan 16	an 16 Kyle Meyering; Dan Ouwinga; Deb Eisenga		

OFFERINGS:

5th: Booster Club
12th: New Building
19th: Existing Building
26th: Life Resources

2nd: Booster club 9th: New Building

16th: Josh and Mandy Shaarda

23rd: Marion Food Pantry

30th: Existing Building

USHERS:

December: James Bazuin, Al Baas, Kyle Meyering, Jason Benthem **January:** Jerry Nemeth, Scott Oeverman, Todd Oeverman, Jun Brinks



DECEMBER 26, 2021 HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Highland's Mission Statement:

Centered on Jesus Christ and his Word,

Highland Church seeks to glorify God with joyful and reverent worship; nurture our children and people of all ages through biblical teaching; promote Spirit-filled fellowship through acceptance and respect, healing and love; and share the good news of Jesus both individually and together.

9034 23 Mile Rd. ● Marion, MI 49665 (231) 825-2171

Email: office@highlandcrc.org Website: www.highlandcrc.org Rev. Neil Jasperse Sunday Worship: 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:50 AM

^{**}If you are unable to serve on your scheduled date, please find your own replacement. Please call the church office (231) 825-2171 if you have any questions. Thank you!

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE - 9:30 AM

Highland Christian Reformed Church December 26, 2021

The People of God Gather:

Prelude: Sally Huttenga- dulcimer Call to worship from Psalm 118:24

Welcome

God's greeting

Greeting one another

To Praise God:

"Worthy, You Are Worthy" (vs 1, 3)

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vs 1, 4)

"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night" (vs 1, 5)

Prayer of Praise

To Pray and Serve God:

Announcements:

Responsive Reading of God's Law

Congregational prayer

To Proclaim God's Word:

Children's message:

Song of preparation: "Lord, Speak to Me" (vs 1, 2, 4)

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7; Philippians 2:5-7

Message: **Downward Mobility**

Prayer of response

Song of response & Offertory: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" (both vs)

Offering: 1st: General Fund, 2nd: Life Resources

(Please remain seated during the song of response and offering)

To Go in God's Name:

God's blessing:

Closing song: "Go, Tell it on the Mountain" (vs 3)

Postlude

- Nursery is available in the basement for children ages infant-3 years old.
- **Children's Church:** Little Lambs is available for ages 3-Kindergarten downstairs following the children's message. A parent must pick them up from their after the service.
- LIVE streaming of our Sunday service is available on our Facebook page;
- Video recordings are available on USB at the sound booth after the service or on DVD by request.

2021 COUNCIL					
Executive. Board: *		Church Office (231) 825-2171			
Elders	District	Deacons			
Bob Vennema *Clerk	#1, A-C	Gary Hesselink			
Dale Fredin *Pres.	#2, D-E	Greg Tossey *Sec. of Deac.			
Ken Meyering	#3, F-L	Tom Ouwinga *V.T.			
Ken Roede *V.P.	#4, M-O	Dan Villwock			
Jerry Koop	#5, P-T	Doug Mitchell			
Bryan Eisenga	#6, V-Z	Adam Swiler			

PASTORAL CARE VISITS: If you would appreciate a pastoral visit for whatever reason, please contact your district elder or Pastor Neil via Sara Bruno in the church office by calling (231) 825-2171. To reach Pastor Neil directly, his email is npjasperse@gmail.com.

Upcoming Council Meetings

January 3 6:30 pm Elders January 3 7:00 pm Deacons January 3 7:30 pm Council

CHURCH OFFICE

(231) 825-2171 office@highlandcrc.org

Normal Hours:

Mon-Thurs: 8:30 am – 2:00 pm Fri-Sun: Closed

All bulletin content due by noon on Thursdays

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

Worship Team (DaNay Tossey)
Care & Fellowship Team (Cindy Vennema)

Education Team (Megan Pluger)

Outreach Team (Jodi DeHate)

Prayer Team (Sandy Rice)

Service Team (Carrie Thompson)

Facilities Team (Greg Hesselink)

ANOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:

January 9 at 6:00 PM- Strong Tower will be meeting at Rehoboth Reformed Church for a combined meeting with their youth group. HS will have their snack there. **Xtreme** will still meet at Highland CRC that night at 6:00 pm.

Highland Council Highlights: The Highland council met on December 13, with current and incoming elders and deacons attending. Here are some highlights:

- 1. In Vice-Treasurer Tom Ouwinga's final report of his term, he relayed good news: the generous Thanksgiving offering erased our 2021 general budget giving deficit; the building debt was reduced to \$130,000 and the benevolence fund is well supplied for winter needs.
- 2. All seven main ministry teams relayed brief, written reports which reflected teams that have adequate members and are active carrying out Highland's gospel ministry.
- 3. Confirmed the second teaching forum- on the biblical case for the inclusive conviction- for January 9, 4:30-6:00pm and the Listening Circle for January 23, 4:30-6:00pm.
- 4. Extended Pastor Neil's contract to continue month to month while transitional ministry is still needed.
- 5. Elected council officers: president- Jon Dracht; vice-president- Jerry Koop; clerk- Ken Meyering; Secretary of deacons- Greg Tossey continuing; Vice-Treasurer- to be determined.

Worship of our great God is central to the life of Highland Church. We seek worship services which honor God and engage his people in heart-felt worship. We aim to start our worship strong, not scattered or distracted. So we ask everyone to make a point of being seated before the service begins- to take in the prelude and prepare your hearts for worship. To avoid the distraction of people walking in during the opening call to worship from God's Word or during God's greeting, the ushers will have latecomers wait to be seated until the time to greet one another.

Disaster Relief: Help Needed! -As we have seen on the news, the devastation from the tornadoes in states to our south is truly heartbreaking. As the hands and feet of Christ, we can help. Please consider donating either your time, if possible, or financially through World Renew, the Red Cross, or to one of the churches that have been destroyed. Here are links to two of those organizations:

- https://worldrenew.net/disaster-response-services
- https://www.redcross.org/donations/ways-to-donate/holiday-gifts.html

SERMON OUTLINE

Title: Downward Mobility Text: Luke 2:1-7; Philippians 2:5-7 Introduction: we all love rags to riches stories 1 Jesus' life and ministry features riches to rags a) Born in a manger: Luke 2:1-7 Made himself nothing: Philippians 2:5-7 Though Jesus was rich, for our sakes he became poor: II Corinthians 8:9 2 The Christian life means to imitate Jesus a) The Apostle Paul: II Corinthians 11 b) Jonathan Edwards 3 Downward mobility for the sake of others today Conclusion Notes:

PRAYER CORNER

Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16

We lift up in prayer those that need healing: Please pray for Ken VanPolen, Dick Bruno, Carol Niver, and Jean Kriebel. Lord, give them the healing and the patience they need and bless each of them in ways only you can do.

Ken VanPolen received exciting news this week that he is officially CANCER FREE!

We lift up in prayer **Danielle Ozeran** (Dave Wing's sister) as she recently found out she has a cancerous tumor on one of her ureters. She is being referred to U of M for surgery.

PRAYER FOCUS

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen "you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand". Isaiah 41:10

Father, we are prone to quickly forget Your goodness and care for us. Lord, may we trust You today and into the new year—whatever uncertainties of challenges we may face. You are the God that can be trusted. Thank You for Your Word that helps us stay focused. May we find delight in Your love and share it with others today.

In Jesus' name. Amen

Missions	Josh & Mandy Shaarda & Family Serving in Uganda Email: jshaarda@crcnapartners.org Blog: http://shaarda.blogspot.com/	George & Sarah de Vuyst & Family Serving in Ukraine Email: gdevuyst@crcna.org Website: http://www.devuysts.com	
Military	Tyler Bode (Staff Sargent, U.S. Air Force) Davis Monthan Airforce Base, Tucson, AZ		

Dear Highland Brothers and Sisters:

Ruth and I well remember April 12- the eventful day when we arrived and moved into the parsonage and I attended my first council meeting. We have now spent the majority of this year in gospel ministry with you. It has been a thrill to see the Holy Spirit powerfully working among us in so many ways.

I think of naming and grieving losses we suffered as a church community; the cluster of young people who made a profession of their faith in Jesus; revitalizing seven main ministry teams with capable team leaders; launching a fine pastor search team; projects completed with our building and grounds; the steady rise in worship attendance; solid giving to meet our budget commitments; staff that are all doing their part to make our church hum; and a spirit of joy and hopefulness about what God has in store for Highland in the future.

All this has made it a deep joy to serve with you! Ruth and I are grateful for all your gestures of love and support, especially when facing Ruth's tongue cancer. We look forward to sharing more of life and ministry as we enter a new year. Happy New Year to you all!

Warmly yours in Christ, Pastor Neil

OUR CHURCH WEEK: DECEMBER 26-JANUARY 1

SUN 12/26	9:30 AM	A time of prayer in the prayer room Morning Worship Service No Sunday School –Christmas Break	
WED 12/28	7:00 PM	Prayer Meeting	

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Sunday: We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper. If you are unable to be here in person but would like the elements of Communion brought to your home, please contact the church office or your district elder so this can be arranged.

Installation Ceremony of Elders and Deacons on January 9. Incoming Elders: Jon Dracht, Paul Shaarda & Den Kamphouse; Incoming Deacons: Dave Wing, Kasey Rees & Devon Dracht.