

"Use whatever gift you have received to serve others" -1 Peter 4:10

NURSERY

- Dec 3** Melissa Oeverman, Cindy Vennema, Patti Koop, Emma Oeverman
Dec 10 Brooke Benthem, Lizelle Bazuin, Bev Kamphouse, Leah Thompson
Dec 17 Shari Benthem, Jan Rivera, Karen Oeverman, Karsyn Meyering
Dec 24 am Becky Wemple, Stephanie VanHouten, Ruth Kulhawick, Harper Tossey
Dec 24 pm Diane Eisenga, Dana Baas, Nicole Schultz, Alan Thomas

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- Dec 3** Teacher: Jodi DeHate; Helpers: Hillary Dracht, Emma Lee
Dec 10 Teacher: Kasey McQuestion; Helpers: Lindsay Beerens, Alan Thomas
Dec 17 Teacher: Megan Plugger; Helpers: Jordyn Richardson, Harper Tossey
Dec 24 & 31 No Children's Church: Christmas/New Year's Break

SOUND / VIDEO / POWERPOINT

- Dec 3** Matt Thompson, Roger Hagerman, Deborah Ouwinga
Dec 10 Cary Sikkema, Dan Ouwinga, Jodi DeHate
Dec 17 Kyle Meyering, Kaylie Benthem, Deborah Ouwinga
Dec 24 am Cary Sikkema, Jonathan Ouwinga, Kendra Jenema
Dec 24 pm Matt Thompson, Roger Hagerman, Deb Eisenga

USHERS

- December:** Steve Meeuwenberg, Isaac Baas, Dale Taylor, Aaron Plugger
January: Kevin Eisenga, Bob Lee, Mike Southwick, Kendyn Meyering,

2ND OFFERINGS:

- December:**
3rd: Booster Club
10th: Lydia Shaarda
17th: Existing Building Fund
24th: Benevolence
31st: Marion Food Pantry

****If you are unable to serve on your scheduled date, please find a replacement.
For additional assistance, please call the church office (231) 825-2171.**



December 3, 2023 Highland Christian Reformed Church

"Striving to be the heart and hands of Jesus"

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."*

CORE VALUES:

*Worship joyfully and reverently.
Treasure familiar neighbors and warmly welcome new relationships.
Nurture our covenant children and serve our community.
Earnestly pray and eagerly work.
Embrace diversity and emphasize unity.
Empower ministry staff and employ the ministry gifts of all.
Give generously and invest globally.*

Rev. Mark Bonnes & Rev. Ashley Bonnes

office@highlandcrc.org Sunday Worship 9:30 am 9034 23 Mile Rd; Marion
www.highlandcrc.org Sunday School & Catechism (231) 825-2171
10:40 am – 11:30 am (Sept-May)

HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Morning Worship Service – 9:30 am

December 3, 2023

*** First Sunday of Advent ***

The People of God Gather:

Prelude: *(Organ/Piano) Advent Medley*

Welcome & Call to Worship

God's Greeting

Greet One Another

To Praise God

Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him (vs 2,3)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (vs 1,2)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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: *The Solid Rock (vs 1,3)*

Scripture: Genesis 9: 8-17

Sermon: God's Gracious Promise

Prayer of Response

Song of Response/Offertory: *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne / Near To The Heart of God*

Offerings: 1st: General Fund; 2nd: Booster Club

To Go in God's Name

God's blessing

Closing Song: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You (vs 1,2)*

Postlude: *Immanuel, Immanuel*

***Our Nursery is available downstairs for children ages 0 - 3 years old.
There is no Children's Church or Sunday School this week.*

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

December 4 at 6:30 pm -Elders

December 4 at 7:00 pm -Deacons

December 4 at 6:30 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 – Pastor 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)

“Leftover” containers needed – If you have any clean, gently used containers (with matching lids) you’d be willing to share with the church kitchen, please bring them in or contact Cindy Vennema. These are greatly appreciated for Family Night leftovers. Thank you!

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 **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.

The Patriots present “A Christmas to Believe In”- Join us for our Christmas Concert and Bake Sale on Friday, December 15 at 6:00 pm at the United Methodist Church 1020 E. Division, Cadillac, MI 49601.

Theological Foundations of the Restoration of Ukraine: I (George De Vuysts) would like to invite you to an upcoming event at Calvin Theological Seminary. I’ll attach the flyer below, but one of my ministry partners, the Poltava Theological Seminary, will be presenting at Calvin Seminary on the evening of December 14 about the future of Ukraine and the role of sound theological education in the rebuilding of Ukraine. It promises to be a very informative and, hopefully, interactive evening. The president of Poltava Theological Seminary, Pavlo Mykhnevych, and the academic dean, Ihor Skrypnichenko, will be presenting. I will be moderating the event. The event is also open to anyone who is interested, so we would extend the invitation to the congregation as well. The Poltava Theological Seminary would like to have a sense of the number of people who will be in attendance, so they ask for people to register in advance using this google form: <https://forms.gle/8oyqdZExikpzi9kK7>

PRAYER CONNECTIONS:

Weekly Prayer Emphasis:

During the month of November, we want to focus on being thankful for God’s blessings:

- **This Sunday**, we lift up prayers for the restoration of relationships.

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

- **In the coming week and next Sunday**, we pray for our marriages.

✚ Our Missionaries:

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

✚ Our Active Military:

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

WE WANT TO PRAY FOR YOU:

At Highland, we strive to lift each other, in the good times and bad, in prayer and we have a few ways of doing that:

- **Weekly Bulletin:** Our bulletin has a section called Prayer Connections. If you would like a prayer request added to the bulletin in addition to or in place of a Prayer Chain message, please contact the church office.
- **The Prayer Chain** is a phone call sent out by the church office to the entire congregation through our Bright Arrow phone-tree. To request a prayer chain be started, please contact an Elder, Pastor, or the church office. If you are not already a part of the Prayer Chain but wish to be added, please contact the church office at (231) 825-2171.
- **Prayer Warriors:** These individuals are dedicated to confidential and consistent prayer over specific needs and concerns that might not yet be public knowledge. If you have a prayer request for one of our Prayer Warriors, or if you would like to become a Prayer Warrior, please contact Sandy Rice directly.

OUR CHURCH WEEK: DECEMBER 3-9

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|-------------------|--|--|
| SUN 12/3 | 9:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:40 AM ----- ----- | Prayer Worship Service SS & MS Christmas Program Practice begins; HS Catechism – Reg. lesson No Fellowship Bible Study (December & January) No MS & HS Youth Group (moved to 12/10) |
| MON 12/4 | 6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM | Elders Meeting Deacons Meeting Council Meeting |
| TUES 12/5 | 9:30 AM 6:00 PM | Ladies Bible Study (with Hilda) – Lesson 3 REV Moms (MS Youth Room) |
| WED 12/6 | 6:30 PM | Family Night Dinner Centershot, GEMS & Prayer Meeting |
| THURS 12/7 | 7:00 PM | Praise 9 Practice |

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** begins TODAY in the sanctuary during the normal Sunday School hour. **Parents-** please ensure your child is present for each practice December 3, 10 and 17 after the worship service if they want like to participate in the Christmas program. Please contact Carrie Thompson or Anne Thomas with any questions.
- **Middle School Light Show Practice** begins today: If you want to participate in the Light Show this year please meet in the Middle School Room downstairs TODAY directly after the worship service. We will also be meeting BEFORE the Church service and AFTER the service on December 10th and December 17th. Please be to church by 8:45am each of those Sundays. **Parents-** please ensure your child is present for each practice December 3, 10 and 17 before and after the worship service if they want to participate in the Christmas program. Please reach out to Becky Wemple for any questions.
- **HS Catechism** will meet in the Youth Building for their regular lesson each of these weeks.

Attention MS & HS Youth Groups: There will be no meetings on 12/3 or 12/17. Both Groups will have their own Christmas parties on December 10 from 6-9 pm. Pizza will be provided.

Concert: The Amen Chorus, Women’s Philharmonic Chorus, and Bells of Peace Handbell Choir will be "Singing in the Season" on Sunday, December 3 at 4:00 at the Elenbaas Auditorium in McBain. We invite you to join us for this special program. A free will offering will be received.

Attention Council Members (Current & Incoming): All Council meetings for December are scheduled for **Monday, December 4th**. Elders at 6:30 pm, Deacons at 7:00 pm and full Council at 7:30 pm.

- Current Council members, please remember to have your 3-ring binders with you. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please turn in you binder to Alan Baas prior to this meeting.
- All incoming council will receive a 3-ring binder at this meeting.
- Information packets pertaining to this meeting will be in Council members’ mailboxes this Sunday.

UPDATE: The Funeral Service for Betty May Morrison will be held at Highland Christian Reformed Church on Saturday, December 9 with visitation at 11:00, funeral at 12:00 pm and a luncheon following. Betty passed away on November 6, 2023.

Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study (w/ Hilda) will be looking at Lesson 3 of their book called *Meeting Jesus*, this Tuesday beginning at 9:30 am.

Schedule Change: Due to some scheduling conflicts with local School Christmas programs on December 12, our **REV Moms** group will be meeting a week early on December 5 at 6:00 pm in the Middle School Youth Room. If you have signed up to make food for this meeting please have items to the church kitchen by 5:30 that evening.

J.O.Y. Group Christmas Luncheon will take place on Tuesday, December 12, at noon in the fellowship hall. Sign-up is on the information table.

Save the Date: Parents and Grandparents, please mark your calendar for our annual Highland Sunday School Christmas Program on December 17th, 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!!

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.

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.