

GREETERS – Please arrive by 9:15 am	
Dec 22	South: Kevin & Tami Eisenga; North: Steph & Sam VanHouten
Dec 25 Christmas	South: Jim & Bev Ouwinga; North: Steve & Sue Meeuwenberg
Dec 29	South: Jason & Shari Benthem; North: Paul & Carole Shaarda
Jan 5	South: Dale & Bev Taylor; North: Bonnie Veddler
Jan 12	South: Den & Bev Kamphouse; North: Jon & Michelle Dracht
NURSERY – Please arrive by 9:15 am	
Dec 22	Becky Wemple, Diane Eisenga, Ruth Kulhawick, Evan Wemple
Dec 25 Christmas	Maggie Southwick, Donna Veddler, Esther Bode, Harper Tossey
Dec 29	Nicole Schultz, Cam Mulder, Jodi DeHate, Owen Wemple
Jan 5	Barb Dore, Tami Eisenga, Jodi Meyering, Alan Thomas
Jan 12	Addean Oeverman, Mikayla Powers, Mary Rees, Gracyn Swiler
CHILDREN’S CHURCH	
Dec 22	Christmas Break – No Children’s Church
Dec 25 Christmas	Christmas Day – No Children’s Church
Dec 29	Christmas Break – No Children’s Church
Jan 5	Christmas Break – Children’s Church
Jan 12	Teacher: Megan Plugger; Helpers; Hillary Dracht, Emma Lee
SOUND / VIDEO / POWERPOINT	
Dec 22	Cary Sikkema, Dan Ouwinga, Kendra Jenema
Dec 25 Christmas	Matt Thompson, Kaylie Benthem, Deb Eisenga
Dec 29	Kyle Meyering, Jon Ouwinga, Deborah Ouwinga
Jan 5	Matt Thompson, Deb Eisenga, Tami Eisenga
Jan 12	Cary Sikkema, Dan Ouwinga, Jodi DeHate
USHERS – Please arrive by 9:15 am	
Dec	Ryan McQuestion, Todd Schmid, Kendyn Meyering, Kerwin Huttenga
Jan	Kevin Huttenga, Den Kamphouse, Butch Karsten, Aaron Koetje
2ND OFFERINGS:	
December: 1 st : Booster Club 8 th : Single MOMMS 15 th : Friendship Bible Ministry 22 nd : Right to Life 25 th : No 2 nd Offering (Christmas Day) 29 th : Capital Improvement Fund	January: 5 th : Booster Club 12 th : Project Canefire 19 th : Right to Life – Michigan 26 th : Capital Improvement Fund



December 22, 2024

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
www.highlandcrc.org

Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Sunday School & Catechism
10:40 am – 11:30 am (Sept-May)

9034 23 Mile Rd; Marion
(231) 825-2171

Welcome to
HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Morning Worship Service – 9:30 am
December 22, 2024
4TH Sunday of Advent

The People of God Gather:

Prelude – *Agnus Dei*
Welcome & God’s Greeting
Greet One Another

To Praise God in Song:

Angels We Have Heard on High
What Child Is This?
Prayer of Praise

To Pray and Serve God

Confession & Lighting of the Advent Candles
Announcements
Congregational Prayer

To Proclaim God’s Word

Children’s Message: Erin McPherson
Song of Preparation: *Silent Night*

Scripture: Isaiah 60;1-3

Title: "...Will Never Overcome It"

Prayer of Response

Song of Response/Offertory: *Christmas Hallelujah*

Today’s Offerings: 1st: General Fund; 2nd: Right to Life of Michigan

To Go in God’s Name

God’s Blessing
Closing Song: *Go Tell It On The Mountain*
Postlude

Nursery is available year-round downstairs for children ages 0 - 3 years old.
Children’s Bulletins are available on the information table in the Fellowship Hall.
Children’s Church is currently on Christmas break but will resume January 12.

COUNCIL CORNER:

Council Installation:
Sunday, January 12, 2025

Next Council Meetings:
Monday, January 13, 2025
6:30 pm Elders
7:00 pm Deacons
7:30 pm Full Council

Preaching Schedule:
Dec 1 – Rev. Ashley Bonnes
Dec 8 – Rev. Mark Bonnes
Dec 15 – Rev. Mark Bonnes
Dec 22 – Rev. Mark Bonnes
Dec 25 – Rev. Mark Bonnes
Dec 29 – Rev. Mark Bonnes

HIGHLAND COUNCIL:
Officers for 2024:

President	Don Eisenga	Pastor Mark Bonnes Pastor Ashley Bonnes *personal contact info is not posted online. Please call the church office.
Vice President	Bob Vennema	
Clerk	Alan Baas	
Sec. of Deacons	Kyle Meyering	
Vice Treas.	Curt Wemple	

Districts for 2024:

Elders	District	Deacons
Jerry Nemeth	#1, A-C	Carrie Thompson
Alan Baas	#2, D-E	Kyle Meyering
Bob Vennema	#3, F-L	Curt Wemple
Mark Eisenga	#4, M-O	Gary Hesselink
Don Eisenga	#5, P-T	Scott Oeverman
Don Ellens	#6, U-Z	Anne Thomas

OFFICE CONTACT INFO:	MINISTRY LEADERS:												
<p>Phone: (231) 825-2171 Email: office@highlandcrc.org</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">Office Hours: 12/23-28</th></tr><tr><td>Mon.</td><td>8:30 am – 2 pm</td></tr><tr><td>Tues.</td><td>8:30 am – 2 pm</td></tr><tr><td>Wed.</td><td>CLOSED (Christmas)</td></tr><tr><td>Thurs.</td><td>8:30 am – 2 pm</td></tr><tr><td>Fri. – Sun.</td><td>CLOSED</td></tr></table> <p>**All bulletin announcements must be submitted to the church office by <u>noon on Thursdays</u></p>	Office Hours: 12/23-28		Mon.	8:30 am – 2 pm	Tues.	8:30 am – 2 pm	Wed.	CLOSED (Christmas)	Thurs.	8:30 am – 2 pm	Fri. – Sun.	CLOSED	<p>Care & Fellowship Team – Cindy Vennema</p> <p>Education Team – Megan Pluger</p> <p>Facilities Team – Greg Hesselink</p> <p>Outreach Team – Jodi DeHate</p> <p>Prayer Team – Sandy Rice</p> <p>Service Team – Carrie Thompson</p> <p>Worship Team – Bonnie McBride</p>
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YOUTH UPDATES:

Highland GEMs – We're so excited that we have averaged 20-25 girls per meeting this Club season. As you know, today's girls are experiencing an overwhelming amount of pressure to fit in. As a result, girls are thinking, talking, and acting like the world instead of God's Word. This is what partly inspired the new GEMS curriculum, "Transformed: Changed by God's Word from the Inside Out" based on Romans 12:2. Through Transformed, our GEMs Girls have been discovering who Jesus is and how to follow Him, develop a love for scripture, be equipped with skills to memorize God's Truth, put her faith into action through Transformed service projects, and more. At GEMS, we believe that parents/guardians are the primary faith nurturers for their girls. Thank you to all of the woman who have volunteered to help our precious GEMs learn to sew! We are so thankful for your talents and the sharing of them with us! Thank you to the Family Night Team for preparing meals for us on Wednesday nights and setting up of tables for dinner and for our sewing room area! The girls have enjoyed this craft, and we will resume this craft into the new year. We are so thankful for each and every one of them and we are thankful for all that you do for them as well. Thank you, Highland CRC, for being a part of their lives!

EXTREME Middle School Youth Group – We're so excited that we have an average of 20 middle school students, 8 boys and 12 girls! Our meetings begin with delicious meals or pizza, then 20-30 minutes for devotion and discussion and we do our best to end with fun games to keep the kids moving! Thank you to all who have sent their kids, volunteer to help, or make a meal! Meetings will resume after the new year! Many Thanks, MS Youth Team: Adam & Maggie Southwick and Riley & Madelyn Brinks

Attention HS: Winter Retreat at Spring Hill Camp is scheduled for January 17-19. The cost for the retreat is \$189 to cover travel, lodging, 5 meals, the speaker, worship and activities. However, half of the cost has already been paid, bringing the fee down to \$95 per student. Please visit <https://my.springhillexperiences.com/camper/express/446> to register. Please contact Alan or Dana Baas with any questions.

THANK YOU:

- Thank you to our Highland Church family and friends for all the prayers, calls, visits and cards following Don's recent knee replacement surgery. Your continued prayers for healing is greatly appreciated. ~Don & Phyllis Eisenga
- **Alliance Stamp Ministry: THANK YOU** very much for the stamps you sent to the Stamp Ministry. The income from their sale goes to support preparation, publication and distribution of a Spanish language curriculum for Sunday Schools. As of the end of October, we've reached a total of \$24,000 that has been generated in support of the Sunday school program. To GOD be the Glory! Thank you so much for your support of this unique ministry.

PRAYER CONNECTIONS:

- We lift up those in prayer that are battling long-term and recent health concerns. We pray for healing and strength and wisdom through those journeys and for the caregivers walking alongside.
- We also pray for those struggling with the loss of loved ones, especially during the holiday season. We pray that they are wrapped in God's love and comfort.

OUR MISSIONARIES:

****Prayer Letters and Updates are available on our Missions bulletin board:**

- **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>
- **Matthew & Emily Slack & Family** (Serving in Asia)

OUR ACTIVE MILITARY:

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

OUR CHURCH WEEK: DECEMBER 22-28		
SUN 12/22	9:15 AM	Prayer
	9:30 AM	Worship Service
	----- -----	No Sunday School / Catechism –Christmas break No Fellowship Bible Study – on break Dec. & Jan.
MON 12/23	6:30 PM	Program Practice for Christmas Day
WED 12/25	9:30 AM	Christmas Morning Worship Service
	11-4:00 PM	Youth Building Use (Offices Closed)
SAT 12/28	10-4:00 PM	Youth Building Use
	12-4:00 PM	Fellowship Hall Use
ANNOUNCEMENTS:		

Program Practice for anyone involved in the Christmas Day Service will be Monday, December 23rd at 6:30 pm.

Christmas Morning: We invite every back for our Christmas Morning Worship Service this Wednesday, December 25 at **9:30 am**. Nursery will be available, however there will be no Children’s Church or Sunday School that morning.

Keys for Kids Advent Devotionals are still available on the information table. These 13-day Advent devotionals are great for sharing with others! Keys for Kids is a publication filled with stories and activities that kids can readily identify with! It teaches biblical truths on a daily basis and helps them to develop good habits to be in God's Word every day.

1985 Highland Cookbooks: Looking for the perfect Christmas gift? Highland CRC Booster Club did a reprint of the classic 1985 Highland CRC cookbook with the recipes that everyone loves (this is the one with vegetables on the cover). They are \$22 each. Pickup locations at McBain Grain and Highland CRC. Shipping available for a higher rate. Questions contact Laura Swiler.

Communion: We will have the privilege of celebrating the Lord’s supper on January 5.

Installation for incoming Council members will be Sunday, January 12. Please continue to pray over these individuals as they prepare for the next 2 years of service. Incoming Elders are Jason Benthem, Joe Kulhawick, Ken Meyering. Incoming Deacons are James Bazuin, Ryan McQuestion & Jon Ouwinga.

Winter Clothing Drive: We are again having a Winter Clothing Drive on behalf of Marion Public Schools and local community resources. We need Coats (all sizes), boots (all sizes), snow pants (all sizes, preferably black in color), and gloves. We are all set in the hat department! All donations should be new or gently used. Donation can be placed by the service team table in the east wing. Items will be delivered throughout the winter months.

Directory Update Sheets: If you have not yet turned in your Directory Update Sheet, please do so as soon as possible. If you need a new copy, please contact Sara in the church office as soon as possible so one can be placed in your mailbox or made available for pick-up.

Gift Cards for Single MOMM are due today! Please turn in gift cards to Sara Bruno, Pastor Ashley or Carrie Thompson. **Single MOMM is a non-profit organization that started in the Traverse City area in 2008 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." **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 (general merchandise, food or gas.) The Christmas tree in the fellowship hall is full of tags. Each tag represents a \$25 gift card that we need. **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.

Grief Share sessions for 2025 at Vogel Center CRC 1789 E. Stoney Corners Rd. McBain, MI will be held on Saturdays, January 4 - March 29 from 9-11 AM. For more information - VCCRC Office@outlook.com or (231) 825-2053 or Pastor Adam Barton (616) 566-7937.

Requests for Church Use: To ensure that the facilities you need as well as the necessary tables/chairs are available we ask that all requests be submitted through the Church Secretary. The main office is open Monday-Thursday from 8:30 am – 2:00 pm and reachable by calling (231) 825-2171 or via email at office@highlandcrc.org. If you wish to submit your request on a Sunday, please leave a note on the office desk and Sara will contact you the next business day.

<i>Poinsettias have been placed in Loving Memory of:</i>		
Henry & Reka Eisenga	Alan Thomas Sr.	Jake & Jo Eisenga
Al & Tena Medendorp	Whip Koetje	Dave Westmaas
Marian Ouwinga	June & Ada Oeverman	Tom & Shirley Boven
Brenda VanHouten	Bonnie Oeverman	Josie Thompson
Helen VanHaitsma	Jon Dracht	Elton & Hilda Sikkema
James Taylor	Bill VanPolen	Ralph & Marie Brinks
Lewis & Nettie Agema	Minard & Mary Ouwinga	John & Anne Vennema
Abe & Freda Kamphouse	Anna VanPolen	Bob & Rhea Dore
Dick Dorman	Bernard Eisenga	