

Morning Worship ~ 9:45 a.m. / Grow Groups ~ 6 p.m.

December 9, 2018

Welcome to Lebanon Christian Reformed Church! The mission of Lebanon CRC is to live by and grow in faith, hope, and love—together.

Today's offerings: Dekkers Mission / Justice For All

Next Sunday's offerings: Building Fund / Hope Haven

Serving One Another

Nursery today: Jon & Lydia Korthuis / Nursery next Sunday: Jake & Angie Liston

Refreshments after morning worship today and visiting our shut-ins this week: Arlo & LaVonne Bonnema

Refreshments after morning worship next Sunday and visiting our shut-ins next week: Cory & Arla Van Sloten

Congregational Announcements

Sunday school (Christmas program practice) and catechism classes meet following morning worship today. Parents, please have your children and young people regularly attend, in keeping with the promises that you and the congregation made to each other at baptism.

Tonight, we will continue our Grow Groups study on the book of James (LifeWay.com/JamesStudy). We will gather in the sanctuary together at 6 p.m. for the Session 7 video (37 minutes) in this 13-session study and then breakout into small groups for discussion. Nursery is provided for little ones and supervision is provided for preschool – 1st grade in the small classroom at the bottom of the basement steps while small groups meet. All other children and young people are welcome and encouraged to join a small group.

Congratulations to Joseph and Francis (Momberg) Cave (and their families), who were united in covenant marriage Saturday, December 1 in South Africa. May God bless their union in Christ and their lives together!

Consistory (elders) and council (elders and deacons) will meet Monday, December 10; consistory at 6:30 p.m. and council at 7:30 p.m. As always, direct any questions or concerns to an elder or deacon or Pastor Cory.

The children's Christmas program will be Sunday evening, December 16, at 6 p.m.

Women of all ages are invited to a time of fellowship on the first and third Tuesday of each month (December 4 & 18) at 10 a.m. at Casey's Bakery to connect with and encourage each other. You may come and go as you please.

New directory forms have been placed in your mailbox. Please make necessary corrections, additions and deletions to your information and return them to Lydia Korthuis' mailbox by December 23.

Reverse Advent Calendar: There is a calendar hanging in the narthex with a list of food items. Each day in December, add one item and on Christmas Eve the items will be collected and distributed to the Norwalk Area Food Pantry. There is a table in the basement for the items to go on throughout the month.

Congregational Prayers and Praises

*For our shut-ins:

Elmer Bonnema

Resides at Crown Pointe Assisted Living in Sioux Center

Adrian Kruid

Resides at home in Sioux Center with Greeta

Severt & Christina Vander Esch Reside at Oak Hill Assisted Living in Hawarden

*For our elderly members and parents and grandparents whose health is declining due to age

*For those grieving the death of loved ones and longing to be reunited with them through Jesus

*For others dealing with health concerns, for healing mercy and/or sufficient grace

*For our children, that they would grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus

*For our marriages, that they would reflect the love of Jesus for the church

*For our missionaries and their work in Texas and West Africa

*For Cate Cave, living in Chiapas, Mexico

*For Josh and Leah and baby Gradert, due in January

Other Announcements

Fall Building Drive for Ireton Christian School building improvements is still going on. It's great time of the year to give of your donations to ICS. We have currently raised over \$32,000. We want to raise at least \$60,000 to complete projects (update all infrastructure of our technology system, put in a security system, and replace our 1999 bus - west route). Thanks and please consider supporting ICS!

Western Christian High School Music Department invites you to their choral and instrumental Christmas concert on Monday, December 10 at 7 p.m. in the Event Center. All the choral and instrumental groups will be performing and celebrating in music the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Unity Christian High School's annual Christmas concert is Thursday, December 13 at 7 p.m. at the Unity Christian Knight Center. All the music ensembles will participate and a free will offering will be received for the Music Department. Come and celebrate the birth of the King! Also, Unity's FFA chapter will sponsor a soup supper from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. before the Christmas concert in the Unity cafeteria for a free-will donation to benefit Unity's FFA chapter.

Justice For All is planning their 2019 Service and Learning Opportunities and would love to have you join one of the teams! These weeks are wonderful opportunities to serve others but also to experience and understand God's kingdom in new and important ways! Dates and places are: Harvest Hands Ministries, Juarez, MX ~ January 18-26 (must have passport); JVMPerkins Foundation, Jackson, MS ~ February 9-16; Voice of Calvary Ministries, Jackson, MS ~ February 17-23; Grace Reigns, Colorado City, UT ~ March 16-23. For more information please contact Luke Grooters at (712) 476-2804 or lukeg@jfa-nwiowa.org. You can also check out the JFA website at www.jfa-nwiowa.org.

“Good Battle” Israel Tours: There are still trips to Israel in 2019 with author Cliff Graham and his team at 60% off of the normal price for a guided Israel tour—first come, first served. If interested or for more information, go to goodbattletours.com, or contact Cliff Graham at hello@cliffgraham.com, or check out his Facebook page at facebook.com/cliffgrahamauthor, or talk to Charlie or Nola or Amanda Van Driessen.

From Back to God Ministries International

Joy to the World: Hints of Christmas litter the Psalm book as the psalmists sing of the coming of a Savior, the Savior we now know as Jesus Christ. Join Groundwork as we examine Psalm 98, Psalm 96, and Psalm 72 to learn what we can expect his coming to bring and what it means for us and for the world. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

From Faith Formation Ministries

Advent Family Faith Formation Tip: On this second Sunday in Advent, add things to your home that remind you that we are expecting Jesus to return. Set an extra place at the table when you eat, or create and decorate a mural together that says “Come, Lord Jesus.”

From World Renew

Advent is “Fullness of Life”: The miracle of Advent brings us Uzima, “fullness of life” (John 10:10). Through World Renew's 2018-2019 Gift Catalog, you can help a family with a filter for clean water to drink, give a child the food they need to grow with a nutrition kit, or provide shelter to a disaster survivor. Give someone the opportunity to experience fullness of life today. Give at worldrenew.net/gifts or call (800) 333-8300 to order.

From CRC Communications

Synod 2018 encouraged congregations, classes, ministries and agencies of the Christian Reformed Church in North America to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the historic and influential Synod of Dordt, which met in Dordrecht, The Netherlands from November 13, 1618 through May 29, 1619. The Meeter Center for Calvin Studies at Calvin College has brought together a vast array of materials and information about the Synod of Dordt and its impact at the following website: calvin.edu/centers-institutes/meeter-center/about-the-synod-of-dordt/. Dordt College also has a website dedicated to celebrating the Synod of Dordt at synod.dordt.edu/index.html.