



Artwork by Sheila Hinderks

**FIRST REFORMED CHURCH
901 Pleasant St. Boyden, IA
Reverend David P. Poppen
December 2, 2018**

JESUS SAVES! GROW! GO!

WELCOME! WORSHIP THE LORD!

Prelude **Leila Moret**

Opening and Greeting

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Brent & Shari Fedders
(insert pgs 5-6)

***Praise Songs: “This Little Light of Mine”** (screen)
“You Are My All in All” (screen)

*Opening Prayer

Invitation to Confession (insert pg 6)

Confession & Assurance of Pardon (insert pg 6)

Joys and Concerns

Congregational Prayer

Children’s message

Hymn #382 “Be Thou My Vision”

(the general offering will be received)

COME! HEAR GOD’S WORD!

Scripture – John 1:1-14 (pg 1645); **10:7-10** (pg 1666)

Prayer of Illumination

Sermon – “A Light in the Darkness”

Prayer of Blessing

RESPONDING TO THE WORD!

Hymn “Love Has Come” (screen & ½ sheet in pew)
(the Missions offering will be received)

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

*Benediction

***Hymn “Go Light Your World”** (chorus)
Pastor Dave & Bonnie

Postlude

(*those who are able please stand)

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Please remember in your prayers Mina Uittenbogaard, Clarella Van Marel, Sheryl Warntjes and Janice Sneller as they recover from their respective surgeries. Also, **Kathy Beek** who is beginning to heal from complications of an ulcer. Pray that they feel the love of God and benefit from His strength.

Congratulations to Jaycee Darnell and Ryan Reiser on the birth of their daughter Nayomi Grace. She was born on Thursday November 29th. Grandparents are Jeremy and Lori Darnell. May God bless this new little life and be ever-present in her and her family's lives.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are visiting today, WELCOME! Be our guest! We welcome you to our worship experience. Enjoy a time of fellowship either before the service with a cup of coffee found in the room off the sanctuary, or afterward in the same room or the fellowship hall in our church basement.

During our worship service this morning, we will be celebrating the first Sunday of Advent. We will be lighting the first Advent Candle as well as considering the themes from "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe." Thank you Brent & Shari Fedders for your part in our worship service this morning.

We will also be celebrating the Lord's Supper this morning. If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior we invite you to participate with us in the sacrament.

During the singing of the middle hymn this morning, the deacons will receive the regular Sunday morning offering. During the singing of the hymn just before the Sacrament, the deacons will receive the mission offering. The missionaries we support are Rev. Barry & Terryl Bruce of "the way out ministries" in California, Seung & Amy Kim in Bangladesh, and Rev. Tim & JJ Ten Clay who recently returned from Italy.

Next Sunday, on this second Sunday of Advent, we will be exploring the theme "The Glorious Food" from Isaiah 55: 1-3 and John 6. We hope that this study interests you. Please come back as we consider the Christian themes from the land of Narnia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Effective December 1st, we will not be listing the weekly offering received. Instead, we will list the total amount received each month. We will also be removing this information from the bulletin prior to putting the bulletin on the church's website. If you have any questions or concerns, please visit with a deacon.

Attention Choir Members! We will be performing a song in the upcoming Christmas program. We will have practice next Sun, Dec 9th & Sun, Dec 16th at 9 am in the fellowship basement.

Christmas program practice - We were disappointed we had to cancel our first night of practice due to the weather! Because of this it is essential to support our program by being at the practice this coming Wednesday evening Dec 5th. If more practices are added on the weekends, we will let you know.

Christmas Caroling! Everyone is invited to join us for our annual time of caroling! We will meet here at the church next Sunday, Dec 9th, at 4:30 pm. We will break into groups and go to Hull and Sheldon to carol! We will then come back and enjoy a delicious meal of soup and cinnamon rolls. Please RSVP to Tamie Uittenbogaard or Ranae Kleinwolterink.

College Boxes! Thank you to everyone who donated to the care packages for kids from our congregation who are currently in college. We will be sending these out sometime this week.

Marriage Enrichment volunteers needed! Pastor Dave is looking for some volunteers to help with this experience which is planned for the end of January/beginning of February, 2019. Tasks would include support of the leaders from Rock Rapids, advertising and food. Please visit with Pastor if you are interested and/or for more information.

Hat/Mitten/Scarf Tree is up in the basement! We will be dividing donations between Atlas & Boyden-Hull Elementary. Atlas also has a need for paper products like toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, etc. Any ?, please talk with Ranae K., Ginger V.R. or Wanda S.

The Classis of West Sioux will be meeting at The Fruited Plain Coffee Shop of Sioux Center on Thursday, Dec 6th at 10 am to pass the sale of the church building and parsonage of the Hawarden Reformed Church. 4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holiday Service Schedule – the Children’s Christmas Program will be Sunday, Dec 16th during our regular Sunday service. The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be Monday, Dec 24th at 6 pm. There will be a Christmas Day service on Tuesday, Dec 25th. The ordination and installation of new deacons and elders will be Sunday, Jan 6, 2019, during our regular Sunday Service.

We are required by the Book of Church Order to publish the names of the newly chosen deacons and elders and to ask if anyone has a scriptural reason why they should not be installed in their respective offices. If you have such a reason, please see Pastor Dave or one of the elders. For the office of deacon – Roger Nelson & Alan Warntjes; For the office of elder–Rod Bolkema, Marv Heemskerk & Tom Reuvers

On Saturday, December 8th, 9 am – 2:30 pm we will hold a Retreat for all consistory members, both retiring and soon to be serving, as well as the Natural Church Development Group and the Ridder-Churches Learning Change Group. Please be in prayer for this event, and ask God to be present.

In your mailboxes this morning is a slip of paper showing how you & your family are listed in the last directory. Please make any necessary changes & return it to Teresa for the new directory. Thank you!

Secret Sisters! It is time for our reveal party! The party will be held on Tuesday, Dec 11th at 7 pm in the fellowship basement. We will reveal who your Secret Sister was this past year, as well as fill out new forms to do Secret Sister again next year! If you wish to be involved but cannot attend the party, just talk to Teresa in the office.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reader 1 – Walking into Advent can be like walking through the Wardrobe. Depending on where you live, Advent might even be like Narnia – cold, with snow under your feet. But Advent is like Narnia in more ways than weather. It’s a magical time, set apart from ordinary time; we listen to special music; we decorate our homes, streets, and clothes; we eat particularly delightful foods. We experience a heightened sense of excitement and expectation. Those expectations are not only about the giving and receiving of gifts, but also about Advent (cont)

and Christmastime offering us a glimpse of a world that's kinder, more just, and more joyful than the one we usually experience.

Reader 2 – To truly enter that world, as Christians, the door we must walk through first is Christ. Snow, greenery, music, cookies and gifts can all help us imagine the kingdom of God, but no matter how big and beautiful the wreath, walking through our front door is not going to transform our lives the way walking through the door of Jesus himself will. It is He who will lead us to that world we long for, where pain is turned to love and death to life.

People – We would walk through Christ, through the door today. So, light the candle and lead us forward into life!

Readers 1 & 2 in unison – We will light it!

Invitation to Confession

Leader – Let us listen to these words from CS Lewis to focus our attention on our fallen humanity and God's overwhelming grace:

People – “We, or at least I, shall not be able to adore God on the highest occasions if we have learned no habits of doing so on the lowest...These pure and spontaneous pleasures are ‘patches of Godlight’ in the woods of experience.” (CS Lewis, *Letters to Malcolm, Chiefly on Prayer*)

Confession

Leader – We are captive, exiled, O God, because we have, each in our own way, chosen our own path, away from You. We are hungry for wisdom and knowledge, because we have, too often, substituted our judgment for Yours. We are lost, in need of guidance.

SILENT PRAYER

Leader – Come, Lord Jesus; teach us and renew us. Come, Lord Jesus.

Assurance of Pardon

(adapted from Titus 3:4-7, *The Message*)

Leader – God, our kind and loving Savior God, has stepped in and saved us.

People – God gave us a new relationship, and we came out of it a new people, washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit. Our Savior Jesus poured out new life so generously.

Leader – God's gift has restored our relationship with God and given us back our lives.

People – And there's more life to come – an eternity of life!

TODAY – December 2, 2018

8:30 AM – PRAISE TEAM PRACTICE

9:30 AM – WORSHIP

10:35 AM – FELLOWSHIP

10:45 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL

THANKS TO THOSE SERVING TODAY

USHERS: Davis/Drew Van Roekel & Kevin Rosenboom

TECHNICIANS: Audio: Jeff Neuman

Video: Bill Noack

Powerpoint: Teresa Harms

KITCHEN: Peg Noack

COOKIES: Peg Noack,

LaVonne Sietstra, Kayla Rosenboom

NURSERY: Holly Starkenburg

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Wed Dec 5– Christmas Program practice

6:30 pm – 7:45 pm

Thu Dec 6 – West Sioux Classis meeting in

Sioux Center at 10 am

Sat Dec 8 – Retreat for Consistory, Natural Church

Development & Ridder at Demco Center

9 am – 2:30 pm

NEXT SUNDAY – December 9, 2018

2nd Sunday of Advent!

Praise Team Practice – 8:30 am

Choir Practice – 9 am

Worship – 9:30 am

Fellowship – 10:35 am

Sunday School – 10:45 am

Christmas Caroling – 4:30 pm

Kitchen – Tamie Uittenbogaard

Cookies – Tamie Uittenbogaard,

Jeri Hoogendoorn, Shauna Neuman

Nursery – Andreah & Kali Maassen

The Vander Ploeg Funeral Home of Sheldon cordially invites you and your family, relatives and friends to attend the Holiday Memorial Service on Sunday, Dec 16th at 2 pm at the Vander Ploeg Funeral Home Chapel in Sheldon. The service is designed for those who are experiencing a void in their life during this holiday season due to the death of a loved one or friend.

The Senior High Youth Group of Maurice Reformed Church invites you to their Traveling Nativity held on Saturday, Dec 8th and Sunday, Dec 9th in Maurice, IA from 5:30-8:30 pm. A horse drawn wagon will lead you down a lit path to events leading to the birth of Christ. Enjoy warm refreshments in the church's Family Life Center before or after you ride. Freewill donations will go toward the senior high youth group at MRC.

To begin a prayer chain – You can either call Max Moret at 348-2929 or Teresa Harms/church office at 725-2366.

2018 Consistory Executive Committee

Vice President – Marlin Uittenbogaard
Clerk – Les Starkenburg
Assistant Clerk – Kathy Ver Meer
Chair of Deacons – Jamie Koele
Treasurer – Paul Moret
Assistant Treasurer – Brad Van Roekel
Building & Grounds – Jason Fykstra
Music & Worship – Kathy Ver Meer
Outreach & Assimilation – Bill Noack
Mission Task Force – Vice President & Deacons
Discipleship –

2018 Elders

Brent Fedders ('18)
Bill Noack ('20)
Les Starkenburg ('18)
Marlin Uittenbogaard ('18)
Kathy Ver Meer ('19)

2018 Deacons

Jason Fykstra ('18)
Ken Hoogendoorn ('18)
Jamie Koele ('19)
Paul Moret ('19)
Brad Van Roekel ('20)

Phone: 712-725-2366/email: frcboyds@premieronline.net

Webpage – frcboyden.com

Pastor Dave's cell phone: 507-920-6588;

Pastor Dave's email address: poppendpp@hotmail.com