

From Aboriginal Ministry

Lent Prayer Campaign for Indigenous Justice - The Christian Reformed Church has affirmed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. But what does that mean? This Lent, the CRC's Canadian Aboriginal Ministry Committee invites you to enter into the themes of the Declaration through prayer. This is our prayer this week: For Indigenous people exercising their rights to be peacemakers and builders of healthy communities, even and especially, in those times when those calls disrupt our complacency, we give thanks. Join with us this Lenten season to pray: crcna.org/DeclarationPrayers

From Back to God Ministries International

"Focus on the Cross" with Today - Lent is a season to focus on the hope we have in Jesus Christ. Receive a free Today devotional series to help you refresh, refocus, and renew your faith during Lent. Subscribe at todaydevotional.com/lent.

JESUS CLEARS THE TEMPLE COURTS - Shortly after Jesus arrives in Jerusalem, he visits the temple. The reality he encounters incites his anger. Join Groundwork as we study Matthew 21 and John 2 to see how and why Jesus clears the Temple courts and the implications it has for how we regard our churches today. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

From Other

EDUDEO GO: Walk, Bike, Run or Swim for Christ-centred education. - EduDeo GO is a GO! Over 30 people have already signed up to either run, walk, bike or swim to help build 4 urgently needed classrooms in the Dominican Republic. Join on your own, or as a group. Set a distance goal for April 1 – June 30. Compete with and challenge your friends. Sign up now at edudeo.com/GO

From World Renew

Short-Term Volunteers: - Are you 18 to 24 years old and interested in embarking on a short-term volunteer opportunity with life-long impact? World Renew's Global Volunteer Program provides opportunities to live, work, eat, and play in an international community while exploring how God wants to use your talents and skills for his purpose. For more information, contact Andrew at globalvolunteer@worldrenew.net.

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Secretary: Judy C Groen (320) 905-3921 e-mail: j.k.groen56284@gmail.com
All Bulletin announcements due by Thursday noon.

Pastor David's office hours: Tuesday - Thursday 8:30 am—12:00 Pastor's Pastors Cell: 320-400-3023

Office phone: 320-329-3932

You are welcome to stop in and visit without an appointment.

TODAY

Greeters: Doug & Anne Groen
Library: Julie Link
Coffee Hour: Zach & Teri Johnson
Sound System: Brad Link
Ushers: Nic & Doug Groen
Nursery: Rachael or Paul
Letter to Michelsons: Darla Ruschen
Congregational Visitors: Paul & Wanda Knapper
Visiting Elder: Doug Groen

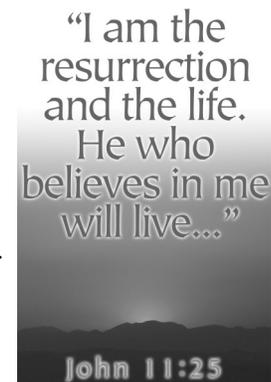
CHURCH CALENDAR

Today 2:00 *RenVilla Service*
Wednesday 9:00 am *Ladies Games & Fellowship* at parsonage

CHURCH FAMILY

We wish to give all of you our faithful supporters a huge thank you for your prayers and support! We feel very blessed. Since we know that many missionaries in the world struggle to receive enough support, we always pray with thanksgiving to our God that we have never been in that situation, not once. We always have enough financial support. We know that it is not because we are more deserving than other missionaries. We don't know the reason. We only know that God has graciously provided us with all of you, so that you can partner with us in ministry. What a blessing it is to never have to worry about our financial support, and to just focus on the ministry we are doing. So we say thank you in the four main languages of the people we work with. Thank you! Asante Sana! (Swahili) Eyalama Noi! (Ateso) Apwoyo! (Kumam) —Anthony & Sara

Greetings from Pastor Joseph Kim: I am doing well. I'm just working and studying. Each day is the very monotonous or mundane. I just get up, go to the university for work and meetings, come back late and the process pretty much repeats itself. I have important deadlines coming up this year. I will need to pass my doctoral candidacy exam and then be able to go on to complete my dissertation by next year April. It sounds far away, but writing the dissertation will take over a year. I would absolutely love to visit this summer so we will see how things are this summer. Please say hello to Pastor David and everyone for me.



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

A sign up sheet has been placed near the mailboxes for those who would like a home visit.

On June 5, 2018 our church will be hosting the Watoto Children's Choir. Our church is responsible to provide 9-10 host homes. Please consider if you would like to serve in this way and sign up on the sheet by the mailbox counter.

Each Sunday morning, we will be having a time of prayer before the service beginning at 9:15.



Sunday School occurs during the service on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. Catechism meets at 9 am on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. On each Sunday there is Sunday School, a Noisy-offering will be taken to raise funds for Lablab beans through World Renew. Lablab beans help Ugandan farmers improve the soil, increase yields, reduce weeds, eat more protein, and feed their animals, too. Sara Sytsma, in her work for World Renew, works with farmers planting these seeds and shows how they are beneficial.



Nursery Sign-up - We are in need of some members to help in the nursery. There are several spots open in the next couple of months. Please sign up by the mailbox counter.



Next Sunday, February 25 we will be hearing God's word from John 13:1-17 in the morning. In the evening we will continue our study of the book of Romans.

If you would like to receive church notifications and announcements on your smartphone, consider downloading the Bridge App. More information can be found here: <http://www.thebridgeapp.org/site/home> Also, to view past bulletins, audio recordings, the church calendar and more, visit our website at <http://www.emdencrc.org/>.

Upcoming dates:

March 5 and 6: Classis at Calvary Christian Church

March 29: Maundy Thursday communion service

May 6: One Voice

Tues., June 5: Watoto Children's Choir - 7 pm

June 10: Communion and potluck

August 5-10: Ecumenical VBS

Sept. 9: Communion and potluck

Sept. 17 and 18: Classis in Alexandria

Oct. 7: Mission Emphasis Sunday and potluck

Nov. 11: Communion and potluck

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Each Wednesday during the season of Lent, Ebenezer Presbyterian Church invites us to join them for a meal at 6 pm and a worship service at 7 pm.

New York Mission Trip Fundraiser Update

The New York Mission Trip students continue their fundraising for their trip in late March. They are selling homemade bars and hot chocolate at home basketball games and they are selling Herberger's coupon books for \$5.00 for the Community Days Sale to be held March 1-3 at Herberger's, Younkers, or online. The books contain a \$10 off \$10 purchase and many % off coupons. Please contact a student in your church. We also would appreciate your prayers! Thanks for your support of the Mission team.



Soles4Souls: Wearing out Poverty - If you have any shoes you are no longer using, please consider giving your shoes to this organization by placing them in the blue container near the entrance of the church.

On February 23, a *Work as Worship* retreat will be simulcasted at Unity Church in Prinsburg. Tickets are \$25. Event goes from 7:30 am - 2:30 pm. Register at www.workasworshipretreat.org.

The 2018 Area-Wide Pinewood Derby will be held on Wednesday, February 28, in the CMCS elementary gym. There will be a free-will BBQ supper served from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Weigh-in will be at 6:15 with the derby starting at 7:00. Please join us for a night of fun!



You are invited to join Classis delegates on Monday, March 5th, from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm at Calvary CRC, 5300 France Ave South, as they think about and discuss worship with members of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. The seminar begins with a plenary on the deep meaning and purpose of worship by Dr. Neal Plantinga, Jr. In the afternoon there will be break out sessions geared towards musicians, worship planners, and preachers led by Greg Scheer, Joyce Berger, and Neal Plantinga, with plenty of time to converse together. We do need to know if you would like to enjoy a catered lunch for @ \$10. Please contact clerk, Henry Gunnink, at henry.gunnink@gmail.com or 651-451-0322 with questions or to register for lunch.

Driver improvement classes for seniors will be held on the following dates: 8 hour first time class:
 Friday, March 16 5:30 Saturday, March 17 9:00
 4 hour refresher course: Saturday, March 17-2:00
 To enroll, contact the instructor
 at Paulknapper75@gmail.com 320-522-2575
 All classes held at the RCW school.
www.212drivingschool.com



Sunday, January 18, 2018
 John 11:1-44

If only . . . if Jesus

- Jesus and his disciples (vs. 1-16)

- Jesus and Martha (vs. 17-27)

- Jesus and Mary (vs. 28-37)

- Jesus and Lazarus (vs. 38-44)

Lenten insights

Fasting makes sense if it really chips away at our security and, as a consequence, benefits someone else, if it helps us cultivate the style of the good Samaritan, who bent down to his brother in need and took care of him. —Pope Francis

Lent is like a long "retreat" during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God ... using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our baptism. —Pope Benedict XVI

We begin to pray, believing that it is our own initiative that compels us to do so. Instead, we learn that it is always God's initiative within us. —Pope John Paul II



PRAYER

REQUESTS
FOR
PRAYER

~ Please remember those in our congregation who have continuous health concerns: Melvin Link, Marge Link, Linda Mayer, Louise Peterson, Gerald Mulder, Norma Groen, Dalen Fuls

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THE PERSECUTED CHURCH: An Unlikely Evangelist

As “Kyung-ja” drifted in and out of consciousness, her head bloodied by repeated blows from a club, she heard her North Korean guard shouting words she had never heard before: “Bible,” “God,” “Jesus.”

Kyung-ja understood why the female guard demanded information about her illegal trip across the border into China ... and about her daughter’s defection. But she’d never heard of Christianity, and she couldn’t understand why the guard kept asking about it and then beating her when she didn’t provide answers.

Two months later, Kyung-ja was transferred to a labor camp. When she got there, she asked a fellow prisoner, “What is God? What is a Bible?” The prisoner told her there was a God, but that they couldn’t discuss it because it was too dangerous.

Months later, while talking on the phone with her daughter in South Korea, Kyung-ja finally got answers to her questions. Soon afterward, she placed her faith in Christ, and today she lives and serves Him in South Korea.

North Koreans will not ultimately be changed by domestic politics, international negotiations or missiles. They will be changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ, and The Voice of the Martyrs is committed to seeing the gospel delivered to North Koreans in every way possible.

Continue to pray for area churches: Ebenezer Presbyterian, St. John’s Lutheran, First Lutheran, United Methodist, Holy Redeemer, Our Saviors Lutheran, Temple of Jesus Christ, Hispanic Church and Emden. Ask God to continue to move through His church to the glory of His kingdom. Remember—we are part of God’s kingdom and need to always be following Him.

Are you continuing to pray that God would use us to share His love and the Good News of the Gospel with our community? Pray that the presence of God will shine through us, the Emden Church Family, and that He will use us in His Kingdom will.

**“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God”
Philippians 4:6**

