

**Emden Christian Reformed Church  
Pastor David Zigterman  
Sunday, December 30, 2018**

**Sunday Afternoon Worship Service  
6:00 pm**

**WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP**

Prelude a time to prepare our hearts for worship  
 Welcome and announcements  
 Opening prayer  
 \*Call to worship Psalm 96:10-13  
 \*God's Greeting of His People  
 \*We Greet One Another  
 \*Songs of Praise *Come Thou Almighty King* PH 246 vs 1-3  
                           *Praise the Lord Sing Hallelujah* PH 188 vs. 1-3  
                           *The Birthday of a King* SJ 212 vs. 1,2

We will not be having an evening worship service at Emden.  
 You are encouraged to attend a service at one  
 of the neighboring churches.

Raymond CRC 5:30 pm  
 Prinsburg First CRC 6:00 pm  
 Bunde CRC 5:30 pm

**WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE**

Confession of sin  
 Assurance of pardon John 1:9,12  
 Special Music *I Wonder as I Wander*  
 Prayer of God's people conclude with the Lord's Prayer  
 Offering The Broken  
 Song of preparation *Once in David's Royal City* PH 346 vs. 1,3,5

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

Prayer for illumination  
 \*Scripture Matthew 2:1-12 *pg. 1497*  
 Reader: This is the Word of the Lord  
 Congregation: Thanks be to God

Message **The Journey of the Magi**

Prayer of Application  
 \*Song of response *As With Gladness Men of Old* PH 358 vs. 1-5  
 \*Profession of our faith Apostles' Creed

**WE DEPART TO SERVE**

\*Parting Blessing  
 \*Closing Song *How Great Our Joy* SJ 192 vs. 1-3

*Welcome to our last worship service of 2018.  
 God is Lord of all time and eternity, so we walk with him —  
 and one another — into all that the new year brings.*

Next Sunday, January 6, 2019	<u>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u>
Greeters: Bob & Joan Swyter	9:00am Sunday School
Library: Julie Link	1st & 3rd Sunday
Coffee Hour: Curt & Judy Groen	(Sept.—May)
Sound System: Paul Knapper	10:00am Morning Worship
Usher: Bob Marcus	
Nursery: Judy Groen	Gene & Dawn Michelson
Letter to Michelsons: Harold & Norma Groen	B.P. 2210, Bamako
Congregational Visitor: Harold Groen	Mali, West Africa
Offering: am Ministry Shares	E-mail address
	Usumaan@hotmail.com
<b>Elders:</b>	<b>Deacons:</b>
Kim Mulder - President	Gerald Mulder - Chairman
Tim Link - Vice President	Curt Groen - Benevolent / Building Fund
Doug Groen - Clerk	Bob Swyter - Treasurer

## From Back to God Ministries International

**FAMILY FIRE** - Family Fire is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at [familyfire.com](http://familyfire.com). Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

**INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW** - What happened to Joseph? Who was Julia? How do I reconcile women in church leadership with 1 Timothy 2:11-15 and 1 Corinthians 14:33-35? Is it right to denigrate other religions or churches? Join us as we study scripture together to answer the questions you've asked Groundwork this year. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

## From Faith Formation Ministries

**Family Faith Formation Tip** - As one year ends and a new year begins, gather as a family to remember the highs and lows of this past year. Thank God for being with you through everything that happened. Then talk about what's coming up in the new year. This is also a great time to start new family faith formation practices in your home! (Faith Formation Ministries; [crcna.org/FaithFormation](http://crcna.org/FaithFormation))

## From Resonate Global Mission

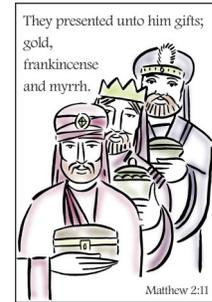
**Join the Global Prayer Safari!** - In Swahili the word "safari" means "journey." Join a team of North Americans who appreciate the power of prayer as you journey hand-in-hand with teams from Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. You'll learn about prayer from other Christian traditions as you visit schools, hospitals, jails, government buildings, markets, and more. Dates: January 31 - February 11, 2019. For more information, visit [www.resonateglobalmission.org/safari](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org/safari).

Emden Christian Reformed Church PO Box 390—518 5th Street NW e-mail: <a href="mailto:emdenrc@centurytel.net">emdenrc@centurytel.net</a> Secretary: Judy C Groen (320) 905-3921 All Bulletin announcements due by Thursday noon. <b>Pastor David's office hours: Tuesday - Thursday 8:30 am—12:00</b> <b>Pastors Cell: 320-400-3023</b> <b>Office phone: 320-329-3932</b>	320-329-3932 Renville, MN 56284 web site <a href="http://www.emdenrc.org">www.emdenrc.org</a> e-mail: <a href="mailto:j.k.groen56284@gmail.com">j.k.groen56284@gmail.com</a>
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**You are welcome to stop in and visit without an appointment.**

## TODAY

Greeters:	James & Phyllis Santjer
Library:	Julie Link
Coffee Hour:	Youth Family
Sound System:	Gerald Mulder
Nursery:	Isabelle Daugherty
Ushers:	Loren Marcus, James Santjer
Letter to Michelsons:	Doug & Anne Groen
Congregational Visitor:	Paul & Wanda Knapper
Visiting Elder:	Kim Mulder



## CHURCH CALENDAR

Wednesday 2:00 pm **Ladies Aid** (see announcement below)

## CHURCH FAMILY

From Anthony & Sara Sytsma: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Uganda! We hope you had a joyful celebration of the birth of our savior Jesus Christ. We have been resting, eating Christmas treats, playing ping pong, watching Christmas movies, and enjoying time with friends. We have two new blog posts this week at <https://anthsara.blogspot.com> with a lot of pictures!

*Diverse Animals in our Yard*

*Computer Trainings*

Our e-mailing address is:

[ssytsma@world-renew.net](mailto:ssytsma@world-renew.net)

[asytsma@world-renew.net](mailto:asytsma@world-renew.net)

(It is Anthony's birthday on January 5 if you would like to e-mail him or send him a message)

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcement from council: Nick Daugherty and Todd Groen have allowed their names to stand for Deacon. Paul Knapper, Duane Mulder, and Brad Link have allowed their names to stand for Elder. If you have any suggestions please talk to a member of council.

**Ladies Aid** will meet on Wednesday, January 2 at Meadows on Main. We will study the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:1-2, 11-24). Study questions will be handed out at the study. Adeline Groen will be hosting.

## **Upcoming dates:**

Dec. 30: Offering for The Broken

Jan. 13: Bible Study

Jan. 20: Annual Congregational Meeting

Jan. 30: Soup Supper



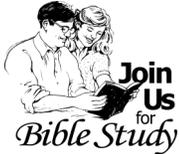
**Sunday School and Catechism** will meet the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month beginning January 6. Catechism (4th grade through High School) meet from 9:00 am to 9:45 am. Sunday School (3rd grade and below) meet during the service.



In addition to this, the Sunday School will collect a Noisy Offering on the 1st and 3rd Sunday. The money collected for this offering will be go toward the leadership training initiative Anthony Systema is overseeing as part of the Timothy Leadership Training of World Renew. More information about this initiative can be found here:

<https://www.myworldrenew.net/timothyleadershiptraining>.

Next Sunday, January 6, we will be hearing God's word from Matthew 2:13-23.



In January, we will begin a new Bible Study called *Discovering and Living God's Heart for Immigrants: A Guide to Welcoming the Stranger* by Matthew Soerens and Jenny Yang. This will begin January 13.

Last week you received the new January church calendar and the new 3 month schedule for January - March. Please look over it carefully and put the dates on your own personal calendar that you are responsible for Sunday duties. Remember: **if you cannot be here the Sunday you are assigned for a duty, it is your responsibility to find a replacement or trade Sundays with someone else.** We will be assigning only one usher for each Sunday so please be sure to check the schedule.

### REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Renville Lions Club will be having a **Belgian Waffle Event** on Sunday, January 13 from 9am-1pm. There will be a Free Will Donation with proceeds going towards the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon on Highway 212 which will help to keep our kids safe when crossing.



Save the Date: Men you are invited to the 26th annual **No Regrets Men's Conference** on February 2, 2019. The No Regrets Men's Conference is an annual conference for males ages 13 and up. Men, when you invite your sons, you receive a discounted ticket price of \$10 for each of your sons! Invite your sons and friends! The conference will be streamed live at our facility, Rock of Life CRC, located at 1708 8th St SW 56201. The doors open at 7:30 am for registration, coffee, juice and donuts. The live stream begins at 8:30 am. Lunch will be provided and the conference will conclude at 4:30 pm. Pay and register online at [www.rockoflifecrc.org](http://www.rockoflifecrc.org) by January 28 or download the registration form online or call Renae at 320-235-3060 or email [willmarcrc@gmail.com](mailto:willmarcrc@gmail.com)



**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.

The Village Children's Museum in Willmar, MN is in need of volunteers. If you are interested or have any questions, call Arlene at 320-894-2338.

### Undaunted

The year just past was wracked with violence, racism and political rancor. We long to fix these problems, but how? We may feel as frustrated as the church board member who spouted, "We've already tried prayer. It didn't work!"

Those words might resonate today, yet things aren't always what they seem. We can't see God behind the scenes crafting a new reality, but Scripture promises it. And though our prayers won't undo earthly death, they surround the grieving with strength and love. We can't "solve" sin, but our prayers can bring communities together and spur us to look out for one another.

The Jewish Talmud states, "Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly now. Love mercy now. Walk humbly now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it." In this new year, may we be undaunted in doing what we can. It might not seem like much, but things aren't always what they seem.



**PRAYER CORNER**

REQUESTS  
FOR  
PRAYER

~ Please remember those in our congregation who have continuous health concerns: Melvin Link, Marge Link, Linda Mayer, Gerald Mulder, Darla Ruschen, DeeDee Johnson

Sunday, December 30, 2018  
Matthew 2:1-12

**The Journey of the Magi**

Sermon Notes

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**THE PERSECUTED CHURCH - Voice of the Martyrs  
Two Christians Arrested After Phone Calls Apparently Intercepted**

Two Christian converts, in Mashhad and Karaj, were arrested recently as a result of what appears to have been tight government surveillance. Behnam Ersali and Davood Rasooli, both Christian converts from Islam, had arranged by phone to meet in Mashhad. Behnam was already in Mashhad, staying with a friend, when six security agents burst in and arrested him. Davood was arrested at his home, where officials confiscated some books and other personal belongings, before he could leave for Mashhad. Based on the quickness and obvious coordination of their arrests, other Christians think Iranian intelligence officials had learned of their planned meeting by intercepting their phone calls. Christians in Iran ask us to pray that Behnam and Davood will know God’s strengthening power and wisdom during their interrogations. Pray also for the men’s release.

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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.

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