

## LIVING THE STORY OF GOD THIS WEEK

Today 8:30a HS Youth Group Breakfast: Foundation

Today 11:30a Potluck luncheon in the Fellowship Hall

M 9:30a Women's Bible Study: Fellowship Hall

2:00p Open Door: Foundation

6:30p Celebrate Recovery

T 9:30a Coffee Break: Fellowship Hall; Childcare

2:00p Open Door: Foundation

6:30p Divorce Care: Howard's Office

6:30p Divorce Care for Kids: Room 5

6:30p GriefShare: Room E

W 5:30p Celebrate Recovery Women's Step Study: Offices

Th 6:30a Men's Bible Study: Fellowship Hall

2:00p Open Door: Foundation

7:00p Celebrate Recovery Men's Step Study: Offices

### COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

AT THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — On Wednesday, December 11, new elders and deacons will be selected by lot. Nominations for elder are Emily Fortna and Thalia Towle. Nominations for deacon are Ruth Bandstra, Beth Bol, Dexter Greene, Phil Knapper, Lauren McGrath, Kate Mogan, Mel Nydam and Carol Schaver.

### CARE — COME ALONGSIDE OTHERS

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER — For Annika Bangma as she is ordained as Commissioned Pastor of Youth and Young Adults during our worship service today.

WELCOME BACK — we warmly welcome back Bill & Sandy Vis who have transferred their membership back to Pleasant Street from Trinity CRC in Anchorage, Alaska—welcome home Bill & Sandy!

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS — The Schneider-Struk family is most grateful to our Church family for the outpouring of prayers, cards, flowers and presence at Carolyn's memorial service as well as support these last few months. *'There are better things ahead than any we leave behind!' C.S.Lewis"*

### GROW — Cultivate Your Faith

POTLUCK GATHERING — Today after worship service—we hope you can join us!

PAGEANT FAMILY SERVICE — Sunday, December 15, at 9:30am. Join us for stories, songs and pageant.

CHRISTMAS EVE — Tuesday, December 24, at **5pm**. Invite your family and friends to join us. A special offering will be received for the Deacons' Benevolent Fund. *"O come let us adore Him!"*

### SERVE — CONTRIBUTE YOUR TALENTS & RESOURCES

OUR SECOND OFFERING — Today is for "Healing Heart Hospitality House"; which is Carol Lewis' charity.

CHURCH GIVING — We are currently running a slight deficit. The Council requests that members prayerfully consider their giving to the General Fund in the final weeks of the year.

FAITH PROMISE UPDATE — thanks the congregation for their pledges given to support our Mission causes for 2020! If anyone has not yet turned in their pledge, pledge cards will continue to be available at the entrances through December.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS & CLOTHES — To bless 45 children in our community through the NAC Christmas Gift Program. To participate, please sign-up in the fellowship hall and help us show the love of Christ during this Christmas season by helping those in need—*The Deacons*

### REACH OUT — Connect with our Community

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS — Join us for a concert with WCS Friends & Family at the Valley Chapel on Friday December 13 at 7pm. Admission is free and all are welcome.

FESTIVALS OF CAROLS — Sunday, December 15, at 5:30pm at Fairlawn CRC. The offering will be for the NAC Food Pantry. Refreshments will be served after the service.

THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY COMMUNITY CHORUS — will perform AN A CAPPELLA CHRISTMAS: The BVCC Celebrates 15 Years, on Sunday, December 15 at 3pm at Valley Chapel, in Uxbridge. Admission is free, though donations are greatly appreciated.

## Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church

508.234.5268 + Office: 8a–3p Mon-Fri

DECEMBER 8, 2019 + 9:30 am



Welcome! We're so glad that you're here. If you've been worshipping with us for a long time or you're entering the doors of a church for the first time, it is our hope that you'll experience a kind welcome, a sense of genuine community, and the grace and truth of Jesus Christ that the Christian Church has celebrated for centuries. If you're asking questions about faith and spirituality, join us in our formation opportunities and ministry events to learn more and meet others. Help us get to know you or let us know how we can pray for you by filling in the Communication Card in the pew and putting it in the offering basket—we'll be in touch. The Lord be with you!

### WORSHIP — Celebrate What God Is Doing

We would love to assist in helping your kids become devoted followers of Christ! Please visit the KidStreet check-in station in the foyer to get a security tag so your children can join us downstairs. If you arrive after the worship service has started and need help checking in, assistance is available at the nursery. The nursery is open for infants through 3 year olds. We are downstairs ready to serve you! Our KidStreet Class for PreK-2nd grade is dismissed to go with teachers right before the sermon. Please bring your security tag to pick up your children after the service. We are excited to serve you!

*Prayer of Preparation*

*Covenant God, you heard your people yearning for a Savior. Thank you for sending your Son so long ago. We now rehearse your promise that Christ will come again, that death and suffering will end and every tear will be wiped away. Come, Lord Jesus, come. As you fulfilled Israel's hopes long ago, so we long for all these promises to be fulfilled. Amen.*

## **GATHER**

*Welcome and Announcements*

*Call to Worship—based on Psalm 85:7-13*

Show us your unfailing love, O God, our Savior,  
**and grant us your salvation.**

Listen to what the Lord our God says:

**He promises peace to his people, who are his beloved saints.**

The Lord will indeed give what is good.

**Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.**

May the Lord make his holy face to shine upon us in this time of Advent worship.

**May we see God's face and so know peace. Amen.**

SONG: *Angels from the Realms of Glory (Emmanuel)*

*Lighting of the Advent Candles*

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

**Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.**

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her sin has been paid for.

**In the wilderness prepare the way of our Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

The Lord will give you a sign. A young woman is with child and shall bear a son.

**And they shall name him Immanuel, which means "God is with us."**

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

SONG: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

## **Renewal**

*Prayer of Confession*

Holy God, we have broken the covenant. We have sinned and wandered into the far country. We hardly remember where we came from. Lord, we're so far from home.

**Please bring us back.**

We've distanced ourselves from the people closest to us: our parents, our friends, our children, our spouses. We allow petty things to come between us, and then we let those things grow. We resist reconciliation. We keep our distance. Lord, we're so far from home.

**Please bring us back.**

We long to return to you, but we don't know the way, or we're too stubborn or weak or distracted to get there. We fail to make any progress in the right direction, and here we are, Lord, we're so far from home.

**Please bring us back.**

*Silent confession*

*Words of Encouragement —Romans 5:8; Colossians 1:13-14;  
Romans 5:1*

God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

SONG: *He Came Down*

*Ordination of Annika Bangma as Commissioned Pastor*

SONG: *I Will Follow*

Passing the Peace

*The peace of Christ be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*KIDSTREET Dismissal*

## **WORD**

*Morning Prayers*

*Isaiah 40: 1-5 (p586), Psalm 137: 1-7 (p504) +  
"Homesick: Why We Left"*

## **COMMIT**

*ECHO Dismissal*

*Morning Offerings: Ministries of PSCRC & Healing Hearts  
Hospitality Home*

SONG: *How Far?*

## **SEND**

*Benediction—1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. **Amen.**

SONG: *Sing to the King*

*Dismissal*

Let us go forth with peace and hope to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

*If I find myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.*

*- C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity*