



CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF ST. JOSEPH



“The God of Hope”

Rev. John R. DeVries

December 5, 2021

Christian Reformed Church of St. Joseph

3275 Washington Ave St. Joseph MI 49085

Rev. John R. DeVries - *Pastor*

269-429-5541

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www.crcstjoseph.com

Worship services are streamed live at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdi_1FAaWeR4r_MKyxaShCA



*** Indicates to please
stand if able**

Prelude

Welcome / Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

** “Come Thou Fount”*

** God’s Greeting / Mutual Greeting*

** “Christ Our Hope in Life and Death”*

** Apostles’ Creed*

Scripture of Confession

“Lord, From Sorrows Deep I Call”

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Welcome of New Members

Offering: 1) General Fund 2) Benevolence Fund

Offering of Music

Please Sign and Pass the Friendship Pads

Children ages 3 1/2 through 2nd grade are invited
to Children & Worship

Prayer for Church and World

Lighting of Advent Candle of Peace

Scripture: Luke 2:22-38

Message: “The God of Hope”

Prayer of Surrender and Joy

** “O Holy Night”*

** Benediction*

** “O Christ, Our Hope, Our Heart’s Desire”*

Postlude

**Giant Print Bibles are near the sound board for use
during the service. Ask an usher for one.**

We are a multi-generational congregation with multi-generational worship. While we do invite children 3 1/2 through 2nd grade to attend Children’s Story Time at the mid-point of the service, our ultimate goal is for the full family of God to worship together as much as possible. This adds richness and depth to our worship but sometimes also minor distractions as parents train their children to take their place in the corporate worship of God. If you are currently training your children for this goal, we understand and strongly support you. Be at ease. If you are not in that position in life, please respond to any minor distractions with patience and grace.

TODAY’S VOLUNTEERS

Nursery - Lesleigh Wingate, Randy Boersen, Micah Johnson

Children & Worship - Jo Nicholson (leader), Judy White, Owen Wingate

Check-In Teacher - Judi Johnson

K-1 Parent Helper - Schripsema

<u>Birthdays This Week</u>	
Today:	Claire Schultz
Monday:	Gloria Toering
Tuesday:	Joy Welch
Thursday:	Anna DeVries
	Braden Miesse
Friday:	Tara Wimbush

Weather Related Cancellation Policy - If we are experiencing adverse weather conditions such as freezing rain, heavy snow, high wind with blowing snow, etc., the congregation is advised to use good judgment regarding driving conditions and putting themselves at risk. If 2 hours prior to any scheduled church activity there is a Blizzard Warning in effect within 1 hour of the start of that activity, the activity will be cancelled automatically. Cancellations will be communicated by church email and Remind.com text.

Our Church Today

Welcome to the Christian Reformed Church of St. Joseph!
It is with great joy that we gather to worship our Lord Jesus Christ!
For those joining us by live stream, we welcome you in that same joy.
If you are visiting this morning, please stay for a cup of coffee or tea in the library after the worship service, and for our education classes. We would love the opportunity to get to know you!

At 1Family today:
5:30 - 7:00pm - Ministries for All Ages
Adults - Men’s Discipleship; Women’s Bible Study
Roots - Bible Study
Impact - Middle School Youth Group
3 1/2 years old - 5th grade - Treasure Hunters
Newborn - 3 1/2 years old - Nursery
7:00 - 7:30pm - Whole Family Worship

Pastor John will be out of the office Dec 7 - 16. If you have a pastoral care need during this time, please feel free to contact your district elders:
A-D - Kurt Beran E-L - Josh Wingate
M-Sto - Aaron Mead Sty-Z - Keith Lubbers

We grieve with Harriet Farwell and family upon the passing of her husband and our brother in Christ, Jerry, on Tuesday, Nov 30.

We grieve with Kat Domer and family upon the passing of her mother.

<u>Activities Today:</u>	
7:45 AM	Worship Team
9:00 AM	Worship Service
10:30 AM	Sunday School
4:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
5:30 PM	1Family

Our Church Going Forward

Our Church Library - Prepare your heart and mind during this season by checking out the **Christmas and Advent books on the shelf in the narthex**. We have something for all ages. Items can be checked out on the clipboard and returned to the wrapped box next to the shelf.

Two Nursery Volunteers are needed during each of the following:

- Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Dec 12 at 10:30am
- Christmas Eve Service on Friday, Dec 24 at 5:00pm

Please contact Deb Bodine if you are willing to serve. Text or call 269-369-2908 or email d-dbodine@sbcglobal.net.

Ongoing need in Children's ministries:

Youth Safety Policy approved adult helpers needed in:

- 1Family Nurseries - Sunday & Wednesday nights
- Treasure Hunters - Sunday nights
- Treasure Hiders - 1st & 3rd Wednesday nights

Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex OR using the online sign-up link on the 1Family page of our website. Contact the office asap if you need to start your Youth Safety Policy approval process. Thank you!

Come to the Christmas Program next week - Sunday, Dec 12, 5:30pm!

This special evening will include portions for which the children are hard at work preparing, pieces performed by the adult choir, opportunity for the whole congregation singing together, and a hot chocolate station and treats afterward!

Calling all of College & High School age to our **annual Nerf Gun Wars!**

Tuesday, Dec 28 from 7-10pm at church. Bring your Nerf guns. Don't have any? Don't worry, we will share. Bring friends! Darts & pizza will be provided.

Activities This Week

Wednesday	6:30 PM	Elders Meeting
Thursday	6:30 AM	Corporate Prayer
Saturday	10:15 AM	Children's Christmas Program Practice

Children

There will be a rehearsal for the Christmas program on Saturday, Dec 11 from 10:15am - 11:45am. Parents, if you are able to stay and help during the practice it would be appreciated.

The night of the Christmas program (Dec 12), **please have the children here at 4:30pm.**

Worship

Worship Schedule

Dec 12	Seminarian Aaron Mead Special: 3rd Sunday of Advent Offering: 1) General Fund 2) Forgotten Man Ministries
Dec 19	Pastor John DeVries Special: 4th Sunday of Advent; Communion Offering: 1) General Fund
Dec 24	Pastor John DeVries Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:00pm
Dec 26	Pastor John DeVries Offering: 1) General Fund 2) Faith Promise
Jan 2	Pastor John DeVries Offering: 1) General Fund 2) Benevolence Fund

Corporate Prayer continues on Thursdays at 6:30am at church, with the continued option to attend online via Zoom (watch for email with link for joining.) We'd love to have you join us!

From Our Deacons

A special offering will be taken next Sunday, Dec 12, for **Forgotten Man Ministries** in Benton Harbor, an organization that ministers to incarcerated men and women inside the Berrien County Jail with the purpose of evangelism and discipleship.

	October	Year To Date
Budget	\$28,236	\$282,360
Giving	\$38,696	\$239,688
Expenses	\$24,140	\$273,974
Surplus/Deficit	\$14,556	-\$34,287

From Our Church Council

A Congregational Meeting will be held next Sunday, Dec 12 at 10:30am in the sanctuary, right after the worship service, for selection of elders and deacons and for review and approval of the 2022 budget. Information packets are in mailboxes today (extras at Info Center) for your review prior to the meeting. Sunday School classes will not take place that morning - For Children & Youth a special movie event is planned downstairs in the Resource Center, and Nursery will be provided.

Absentee Ballot Process - Absentee ballots with envelopes are available at the Information Center. Place your completed ballots, including your signature, in a sealed envelope and place in the designated envelope in Keith Lubbers' mailbox by 10:00am on Sunday, December 12. For those members who are out of the area, please send your ballot via U.S. mail to the church office prior to Dec 12.

Completing their 3 year terms on council this spring are Elder Aaron Mead and Deacon Karen Killian.

Youth

Impact (middle school youth group) meets today from 5:30 - 7:00pm at church. Snacks/Drinks: Vallejo

Roots (high school youth group) meets today from 5:30 - 7:00pm at church.

Sunday, Dec 19 will be our last Sunday evening meeting for 2021. Both groups will have a special evening planned. Impact kids, please let your leaders know if you are able to attend.

Christian Reformed Church of St. Joseph

OUR MISSION

We are a Great Commission congregation:
Reaching the lost and teaching the found on our journey to maturity in Christ.

OUR VISION

We are an Equipping Church: guiding people of all ages and circumstances to answer God's call and use their gifts to make a difference in the world as disciples of Christ.

STAFF

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>	<u>In Office</u>
Pastor	John DeVries	jdevries@crcsj.org	Tu-Fri
Administrative Asst.	Carol Bly	office@crcsj.org	Tu-Wed
Secretary	Beth Wolf	office@crcsj.org	Th-Fri
Director of Youth Ministries	Lesleigh Wingate	lwingate@crcsj.org	
Director of Education & Shared Ministries	Erin Beran	eberan@crcsj.org	
Director of Worship	Will Burrows	wburrows@crcsj.org	

COUNCIL

Pastor John DeVries
Keith Lubbers (2021-23) - Chair
Kurt Beran (2021-23) - Vice-Chair & Missions Liaison
Aaron Mead (2019-21) - Clerk, Education Liaison, & Youth Liaison
Josh Wingate (2020-22) - Classis Delegate
John Burtchett (2020-22) - Classis Delegate
Jane Grotevant (2021-23) - Congregational Life Liaison
Karen Killian (2019-21)
Rob Schripsema (2021-23)
Michelle Sykora (2020-22) - Cultural Engagement Liaison & Alternate Classis Delegate

ELDERS

Pastor John DeVries - Chair
Keith Lubbers - Vice-Chair
Kurt Beran
Aaron Mead - Clerk
Josh Wingate

DEACONS

Karen Killian - Chair, Benevolence, & Pantry
John Burtchett - Vice-Chair & Finance
Jane Grotevant - Soup Kitchen
Rob Schripsema - Pantry
Michelle Sykora - Clerk

Contact any of the deacons regarding benevolence requests

ELDER DISTRICTS

A - D: Kurt Beran
E - L: Josh Wingate
M - Sto: Aaron Mead
Sty - Z: Keith Lubbers

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Kurt Beran - Chair
Pastor John DeVries - Vice-Chair (Elder Chair)
Keith Lubbers (Council Chair)
Karen Killian (Deacon Chair)
John Burtchett (Finance Deacon)
Carol Bly (Admin)