

# First Christian Reformed Church

## Lynden, Washington

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*Announcements for May 1, 2022*  
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*Lord willing, this Sunday, Pastor Robert W and Pastor Mike B will be leading us in worship at 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM.*

**This Sunday at 10:30 AM**, the First CRC GEMS (ministry to elementary and middle school girls) will help lead us in worship at our GEMS Service. Their theme this year is “Unshakeable”, based on Psalm 62:2.

**Nursery** is available for children up to 3 years in the Education Building during the morning service.

**Children's Church** is available for children 3 years – 3rd grade during the morning worship service. Children will be invited to leave during the service to go to the Education Building.

**Fellowship Time** is immediately following the morning service in the church basement.

### **TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**May 1:** GEMS Girls Club - GEMS is an acronym for Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior. Their vision is to see girls around the world actively and enthusiastically expressing love for God and others—girls equipped, motivated, and passionately engaged in living out their faith. Their mission is to bring girls everywhere into a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ. GEMS was founded on the principles defined in Titus 2, to help women show girls how to live God-honoring lives. At First CRC, GEMS is led by women who are members of First church for girls in 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade from First church and from the community.

**May 8:** Christian School Tuition Assistance

**May 22:** Christian Hope Association

**May 15:** Ken & Chris

**May 29:** Benevolence Fund

### **NOTE FROM THE DEACONS:**

As we are all aware, the gas prices have increased dramatically in the last few months. It can take time for budgets and income to adjust to this new reality. The Deacons have purchased gas cards for those who need extra assistance during this time. Please contact your deacon for assistance and additional details.

### **PLEDGE CARDS for Phase III Building Project**

The Council encourages every household to return the pledge cards that were put in your mailboxes at the end of March. These pledge cards will help Council determine if the current concept is economically feasible. Please note that we will never put the church into more debt than can be reasonably repaid. Our current policy is that the debt would not exceed 25% of the cost, and we may lower this to 20% if the debt seems too high. Also, there will be one final vote from the congregation before any contract is approved and construction is started as this is a requirement for all capital projects of this magnitude. If needed, there are extra pledge cards on the Information Center or you can print from the link below. Please return the pledge cards to the Treasurer, Paul A (Box A8), the church office or put in the offering bags no later than Sunday, May 1st.

### **PRAYER AND PRAISE ITEMS**

#### **PRAYER ITEMS**

- John V has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer that has metastasized to his liver and kidneys and is now on hospice care.
- Dale A is at home continuing therapy.
- Freda G is in rehab at North Cascade Health and Rehab Center partial hip replacement.
- As Muslims fast and pray during the month of Ramadan, pray that This week Ramadan ends with 2 days of prayers in the mosque, feasting and celebrations.

## THANK YOU

- Dear Family of First CRC, Dale and I would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone for their prayers, food delivery, cards, words of encouragement, and inquiries about Dale's status. We also appreciate the visits in the hospital and at home, as they encouraged and uplifted us. *"God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble..." Psalm 46:1-3* ~ with Christian love, Dale & Joan A
- We wish to thank everyone for the cards, texts, meals and visits. The expressions of sympathy and support we have received from you all have truly been amazing and greatly appreciated. God is faithful and His love and care are holding us close. Thank you, Bev H and family
- Thank you for donating your soft goods for this year's Fundrive! Our local Youth Dynamics group collected 1051 pounds, raising \$262.82. The funds will help us continue to provide wilderness adventures that are challenging physically, mentally, and spiritually.

## TOGETHER SEEKING GOD'S FACE - 40 DAYS OF PRAYER

*What is this initiative, Together Seeking God's Face?*

Prayer always lies at the center of the Christian life, but there are times and seasons when this centrality takes on a deeper urgency. The Christian Reformed Church is currently in a highly unusual season, comprised of many layers. These layers include:

1. Our annual synods are important gatherings with delegates from every part of the denomination coming together to worship, reflect, deliberate and decide. Synods 2020 and 2021 were both canceled due to COVID. We expect synod 2022 to meet, and we know this synod will carry three year's worth of weight.
2. The COVID pandemic has profoundly affected congregations. Weekly worship has been disrupted, hundreds of pastors and countless other ministry leaders are exhausted and discouraged as they lead amid strong and conflicting opinions concerning the best ways to respond to the pandemic.
3. The CRC's leadership structure includes three executive positions. Currently all three are being filled by interim leaders, and search processes are underway for all three.
4. We are a binational denomination, and the structure of the relationship between the American and Canadian church is once again open for discussion.
5. The Human Sexuality Report is the major agenda item for synod 2022, and its recommendations generate very passionate and conflicting positions.
6. Racial tensions have heightened in both countries following the death of George Floyd in the US and the discovery of unmarked graves of Indigenous children on the grounds of residential schools in Canada. Christian Reformed congregations have sharply differing views concerning the shape of a biblical response to racial reconciliation.

For this reason, the CRC's Council of Delegates decided at its May 2021 meeting to consider the period leading up to synod 2022 as a special year of prayer called "Together Seeking God's Face." Executive Director Colin Watson expressed the hope that as a culmination of this year of prayer, synod would erupt into one continuous prayer meeting. We encourage everyone to join us as together we seek God's face. The theme for the week of May 1-7 will be "Seeking God Together".

## NEWS AND UPDATES

### NOMINEES FOR ELDER AND DEACON

The Lord has led the council to nominate the following men for the office of elder and deacon. Members will vote on 3 elders and 3 deacon names. Pray God's hand will guide the drawing of lots to select 3 elders and 3 deacons out of the nominees with the most votes at the congregational meeting on Sunday, May 1 following both morning services. A profile of nominees will be sent out next week.

- **Elder Nominees:** Galen L, Robert S, Gene T, Wes V, Brian V
- **Deacon Nominees:** Kevin B, Ryan B, Alan D, Rob H, Greg T, John V.

Absentee ballots are available at the Welcome Center, from the church office, or can be requested by contacting the church office. Absentee ballots must be placed in a sealed envelope, with a signature on the outside, and returned to council clerk, Doug V (box O 10), prior to the 10:30 AM service on May 1.

## **GREETING AT WORSHIP SERVICES RESUMING SUNDAY, MAY 1**

On Sunday, May 1, we will resume having greeters at the entrances for our worship services. We respect anyone who does not feel comfortable shaking hands and greeters will offer just a verbal greetings if you prefer. Also if you would be willing to greet please call or email the church office.

## **TIRED AND RETIRED**

Tired & Retired are having a Cinco De Mayo night! Friday, May 5th at 6:00pm in the Loft. We will have a Taco bar & Fiesta fun. Please sign up if you are coming. We are asking for money donations for the dinner & future event costs.

## **SENIOR DINNER - MAY 10**

Anyone 70+ is invited to an "Old Fashioned Hymn Sing", our Senior Dinner on Tuesday, April 10. at 5:30 p.m. If you would like to attend, please sign up in the back of church or contact the office at 360-354-4560 by May 2.

## **AGAPE HOUSE OPPORTUNITY**

Is anyone interested in facilitating a class at the Agape House, the women's shelter for the Light House Mission? Cal B would love to talk to you.

## **LYNDEN SERVE COMING JUNE 25 - JULY 2, 2022**

### **LYNDEN SERVE IS ONLY 8 WEEKS AWAY!**

We want to keep you up to date on how you can help with SERVE, so check the announcements each week for ways for YOU to be involved!

## **PRAYER PARTNERS NEEDED**

Would you be willing to join the SERVE team and regularly pray for one of the 63 SERVE students/adults coming from California, South Dakota, Michigan, Minnesota, and Washington? If you sign up, we'll give you *ONE SERVANT* to pray for by name. There are no requirements except an email address and a willingness to pray. We'll email you the information and you can pray regularly in the comfort of your home. If you are willing to be a prayer partner, contact Laura B or Debbie M.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

### **DISCOVERY CLASS**

Discovery class is beginning this week Monday, May 2 at 7 PM at the parsonage. If you would still like to sign up or have questions please contact the office or Pastor Robert.

### **OASIS (7th-8th GRADE YOUTH MINISTRY)**

Oasis will meet on Monday, May 2 at 7:00 PM in the Loft. For more information, contact Jeff & Renee L, Patty R or Pastor Mike B.

### **PRAYER FOR SERVE**

The team praying for SERVE will meet on Monday, May 2 at 7:00 PM in the prayer room.

### **MINISTRY TEAMS**

Ministry Teams will meet Tuesday, May 3 at 6:30 PM, unless you hear otherwise from your chairperson.

### **ELDERS**

Elders will meet on Tuesday, May 3 at 7:30 PM in the Church Basement.

### **TRIBE (9th-12th GRADE MINISTRY)**

Join us on Wednesday, May 4 at 7:30 PM in the church basement. For more information, contact Cal & Laura B, or Pastor Mike.

### **MENS BIBLE STUDY**

We will meet again on Thursday, May 5 at 7:00 PM in the church basement. For more information contact Pastor Robert.