

First Christian Reformed Church

Lynden, Washington

Announcements for May 8, 2022

Lord willing, this Sunday Pastor Robert W will be leading us in worship at 10:30 AM and David W will bring us the message at 6:00 PM.

Nursery is available for children up to 3 years in the Ed. 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 8: Christian School Tuition Assistance

May 15: Ken & Chris

May 22: Christian Hope Association

May 29: Benevolence Fund

Tithes and offerings can be given the following ways:

Placed in the offering bag on Sunday, mailed to the church office (1010 Front Street, Lynden, WA 98264), dropped off during the week (at the church office during office hours or in the outside locking mailbox after hours), or electronically through a bill pay service or with Tithe.ly.

DEACON'S REPORT - APRIL 2022

The Deacon's Report for April 2022 is now available. Copies are in your church mailbox or you can find additional copies on the Welcome Center or in the church office.

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. Please return the pledge cards to the Treasurer, Paul A (Box A8), the church office or put in the offering bags. **The deadline has been extended to Sunday, May 15.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE ITEMS

OUR SYMPATHY

- We express our sympathy to Larry & Debbie S, Ken & Sherri S, Mike S, Mark & Michelle T, Klayton & Kendra S, and all of their families with the loss of father and grandfather, Jake S, on May 1.
- We express our sympathy to Davis & Faith G with the sudden loss of Davis' step-sister, Kailia this past week.
- We express our sympathy to Pat M and her family with the passing of her husband, Bennie, on Thursday May 5. A memorial service is planned for Thursday, May 12 at 2:00 PM at First CRC.
- The memorial service for Bea V will be at First CRC next Saturday, May 14 at 11:00 AM at church.

PRAYER ITEMS

- Jo V is recovering from hip surgery this past week.

- Berny D has completed his first round of chemotherapy and is now making decisions about further treatment of his cancer.
- John V is dealing with pancreatic cancer that has metastasized to his liver and kidneys and is now on hospice care at Lynden Manor.
- Dale A is at home and continuing therapy following a stroke.
- Freda G is now back at Lynden Manor.

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 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

RESULTS FOR ELDER AND DEACON

Following the elections and drawing of lots on Sunday, May 2, three elders and three deacons were selected to serve on the First CRC Council.

- **Selected to the office of Elder:** Galen L, Wes V and Brian V
- **Selected to the office of Deacon:** Ryan B, Rob H and Greg T

Please remember these men in prayer as they take on these leadership roles. The Council thanks all who allowed their names to be placed in nomination.

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.

KINGS MEN OF SONG JOINING US IN WORSHIP - MAY 15

The Kings Men of Song will be helping lead us in worship on Sunday, May 15 during our 6:00 PM service.

AGAPE HOUSE OPPORTUNITY

The Agape House, the women's shelter for the Light House Mission, is trying to put together classes for the residents. If you are interested in facilitating a class at the Agape House, please contact Cal B.

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

CADETS (1st-8th GRADE BOYS MINISTRY)

We will be meeting on Monday, May 9 at 7:00 PM in the church basement. For more information, contact Brian S.

DISCOVERY CLASS

Discovery class will meet this week Monday, May 9 at 7:00 PM at the parsonage.

SERVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

The SERVE leadership team will meet on Monday, May 9 at 7:00 PM in the Loft.

TRIBE (9th-12th GRADE MINISTRY)

Join us on Wednesday, May 11 at 7:30 PM in the church basement. For more information, contact Cal & Laura B or Pastor Mike.