



christ  
community  
church

# good news

january 2012

**TAKE  
EAT,**  
IN REMEMBRANCE  
OF ME.

The Lord's Supper is a means of grace through which God acts to seal the promises of the gospel. The power of the celebration does not lie in our ability to think

hard about Jesus' death and our sin, but in the way God's Spirit uses the celebration to nourish and sustain us.

This holy supper is a feast of remembrance, communion and hope. We remember that our Lord Jesus Christ was sent of the Father into the world to assume our flesh and blood and to fulfill for us all obedience to the divine law, even to the bitter and shameful death of the cross. By his death, resurrection, and ascension he established a new and eternal covenant of grace and reconciliation that we might be accepted of God and never be forsaken by him.

We come to have communion with this same Christ who has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the world. In the breaking of the bread he makes himself known to us as the true heavenly Bread that strengthens us unto life eternal. In the cup of blessing he comes to us as the Vine in whom we must abide if we are to bear fruit.

We come in hope, believing that the bread and this cup are a pledge and foretaste of the feast of love of which we shall partake when his kingdom has fully come, when with unveiled face we shall behold him, made like unto him in his glory. Since by his death, resurrection, and ascension Christ has obtained for us the life-giving Spirit who unites us all in one body, so are we to receive this Supper in true love, mindful of the communion of saints.

Since the Lord's Supper is a means of grace through which God acts to seal the promises of the gospel, the Council is recommending we begin celebrating this feast the first Sunday of every month, in addition to other significant dates throughout the church year, such as the first Sunday of Advent, the first Sunday of Lent, Maundy Thursday, Pentecost and World Communion Sunday.

Recognizing that God meets us where we are, but that God also invites us to come, we would like to begin offering communion by intinction (people will be invited to come forward, break a piece of bread off from the loaf and dip it into the cup), in addition to serving it as we have traditionally done for those who are unable or may not wish to receive the elements by intinction.

## Upcoming Events @ Christ Community Church

- \*Study of James begins  
Jan 4
- \*Officer Installation  
Jan 8
- \*Entertainment Dining  
Jan 10
- \*Open Sledding  
Jan 14
- \*Council Meeting  
Jan 22
- \*Open Sledding  
Jan 28

## First Fruits in January

- Jan 1 Senior Sing A-long
- Jan 8 Mel Trotter
- Jan 15 Salvation Army
- Jan 22 CC Cares Fund
- Jan 29 In The Image

## January Birthdays

- Jan 2 Lorna Rose
- Jan 6 Kyle Dover
- Jan 10 Ron Cook
- Jan 14 Melissa VanLangen

**Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:00 AM**



What if we took our lengthy lists of changes we want to make in the new year and narrowed them down — way down? Rather than making a half dozen or more commitments that we're unlikely to keep, how about zeroing in on a single word that captures the essence of what we want to achieve or become?

North Carolina pastor Mike Ashcraft encouraged church members to each find one word that points to or describes a characteristic or vision they wanted to achieve in the year ahead. The experiment turned into a movement, with ideas and testimonials available at myoneword.org.

What would your one-word resolution be?

### Bible in a year

Beginning January 1, 2012 the scripture passages listed in the Daily Devotions and in the Good News newsletter will include an Old and New Testament passage designed to help us read through the entire Bible by the end of the year. For some of us, this will be the first time doing so. For others, it will not be new at all. Either way, there will be added joy because we are reading it through together. You will find it adds a special blessing to the venture as you recall now and then that we are all reading the same passages at the same time.

### Serving among us ...

#### Liturgists

01/01 Chris Janowiak  
 01/08 Bill Benson  
 01/15 Lance Brown  
 01/22 Linda Vance  
 01/29 Jennah Haminger

#### Counters

01/01 Harry Wayman / Terry Wright  
 01/08 Terry Wright / Lorna Rose  
 01/15 Lorna Rose / Chet Knox  
 01/22 Chet Knox / Hattie VanHaften  
 01/29 Hattie VanHaften / Terry Wright

#### Greeters

01/01 Will & Juanita Thompson  
 01/08 Elain Panek / Brian Panek  
 01/15 Lorna Rose  
 01/22 Pam Runciman / Helen Logee  
 01/29 Hattie Van Haften

#### Ushers

01/01 Chet Knox / Ethel Adrianse  
 01/08 John & Lin Yonkers  
 01/15 Brian Panek / Hattie VanHaften  
 01/22 Dee Cook / Lorna Rose  
 01/29 Linda Vance / Brian Panek

#### Welcome Center

01/01 Carol Wright  
 01/08 Shirley Dekker  
 01/15 Michelle Brown  
 01/22 Lin Yonkers  
 01/29 Carol Wright

#### PowerPoint

Jan Harry Wayman

#### Sound

Jan Mike Kammeraad

#### Bus Hosts

Jan Chet Knox/Bill Benson/  
 Greg Haminger

#### Office Volunteers (folding)

01/05 Connie Wayman  
 01/12 Mary VanAllsburg  
 01/19 Lorna Rose  
 01/26 Thompsons / Paneks

### Worship ...

#### Jan 1: 1st Sunday after Christmas

*Presenting Jesus*  
 Luke 2.22-40

#### Jan 8: Baptism of the Lord

*The Big Day*  
 Mark 1.4-11

#### Jan 15: 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

*The Stuff We're Made Of*  
 Psalm 139.1-6, 13-18

#### Jan 22: 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

*Second Careers*  
 Mark 1.14-20

#### Jan 29: 4th Sunday after Epiphany

*A Leader Like You*  
 Deuteronomy 18.15-20

### In our prayers

Let us remember in prayer some of our members who have not been able to be with us...and send them a note reminding them of our care.

#### Carrie Bedard

Holland Home Fulton Manor #339  
 1450 E Fulton St  
 Grand Rapids, MI 49503

#### Pete & Sally Charnley

4326 Millpond NE  
 Rockford, MI 49341-9666

#### Jackie Hahn

3736 Richton NE  
 Grand Rapids, MI 49525

#### Margie Keizer

2705 Clyde Park SW  
 Wyoming, MI 49509-2008

#### Miles Szubinski #235927

Parr Highway C.F.  
 2727 East Beecher St.  
 Adrian, MI 49221

#### Grace Voit

3604 E. Fulton #236  
 Grand Rapids, MI 49546-1396

#### Rob Wayman

2166 Heath Dr SE  
 Grand Rapids, MI 49506-5430

#### Herm & Barb Werther

2619 Kalamazoo Ave SE #156  
 Grand Rapids, MI 49507-3968

## Financially Speaking:

The holidays are a wonderful time of giving gifts to the people we care about. For many consumers, however, the joy of the season will soon be replaced by the stress of paying holiday debt. Here are 5 tips to help you begin the new year:

**Know how much you owe.** A common mistake is not keeping track of debt. The thinking is that as long as you can keep up with the payments, everything is fine. However, if circumstances change due to a layoff or other unexpected event, you could find yourself unable to make payments and in immediate financial stress. The only way to understand what you are facing is to have a realistic picture of what you owe. Gather all your credit card statements and other bills and add up the total.

**Create a spending plan.** The easiest way to take control of your money is to set out a plan for how you will spend it. It gives you the power to decide where your money goes. The plan should be flexible and include monthly expenses such as mortgage or rent, utilities, food, transportation, entertainment, clothing, etc. Make sure your expenses are not more than your income.

**Pay off credit card debt.** The average household has close to \$10,000 in credit card debt and the interest paid on those balances can be as high as \$1,800 a year. Stop charging additional purchases today and commit to not charging any purchases unless you have a plan in place to pay off the balance in 90 days or less.

**Build a savings cushion.** Once you have paid off your credit card balances, you should begin to build a savings cushion for emergency or unexpected expenses or if you lose your job. Your goal is 3-6 months of living expenses set aside in savings. With this cushion in place, you will not have to put those unexpected expenses on a credit card.

**Develop a strategy for your financial future.** Set aside a regular time to manage your finances and retirement planning. Establish a retirement fund and contribute to it on a regular basis.

## We get letters...

**T**hank you for supporting Senior Sing A-long with your first fruits gifts. The need for the programming funded through Senior Sing A-long seems overwhelming at times. Individuals are usually confined to nursing homes, assisted living homes, and Veterans Homes due to physical limitations and economic constraints, or both. These individuals often feel as if they are all but forgotten. As people age and their health deteriorate, the only option for most individuals is some sort of long-term care facility. Without the services Senior Sing Along provides, with the help of donations like yours, the quality of life for these individuals would be rather dismal. Thank you again for your support.  
Jill Dover, **Senior Sing A-long**

**B**uilding and renovating houses with God's people in need is what we do, and we do it because we know how important it is for people to have a decent place to call home. Your most recent first fruits gift was greatly appreciated. Without your support we couldn't do what we do. Thank you for your ongoing partnership.  
David Snell, **The Fuller Center for Housing**

**T**hank you so much for your recent first fruits donation to International Aid! Because of partners in ministry like you, IA has been able to send over \$41 million in medicines, health products and medical equipment to those in need since July 1, 2011.

We are praising God for the ministry opportunities He has provided us. Over the course of the next few months, IA team members will be traveling to Haiti, Liberia, Japan and South Korea to see how IA can continue to bring relief to those who are suffering in those areas. We are excited about the ministry God has placed before us—ministry that could not be accomplished without the generosity and faithfulness of donors like you. We are so thankful that you have joined us in this work.

Brian Anderson, **International Aid**

### *New Mercies*

*Everyone seems to have at least one resolution that seems impossible to keep. And that can become very discouraging.*

*The prophet Jeremiah, who had his own reasons to feel down, wrote,*

*"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness"*

*(Lamentations 3:22-23, NRSV).*

*God refuses to give up on us. When we lose hope, when we fail and fall short, his mercy never runs out.*

*Tomorrow is full of promise and our Lord's unceasing love.*

## New Bible study

Beginning Wednesday, January 4 from 11:00am to 12:00pm, a six-week study on the letter of James will be offered in the "new" adult classroom/library on the lower level. After the first week, we will be focusing on one chapter of James each week. In the event of inclement weather, cancellations will coincide with the Forest Hills School District weather related cancellations.

## Entertainment dining

- \* **Tuesday, January 10, 6:00 PM**
- \* **Jade Garden** (4514 Breton)

Reserve your spot by signing up in the foyer, or contact the office by noon on that day. Don't forget your Entertainment Dining Coupon!

### **Spread Tidings of Joy to Everyone in December**

- |                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Genesis 1, 2 & Matthew 1      | 18 Genesis 37, 38 & Psalm 9    |
| 2 Genesis 3, 4 & Matthew 2      | 19 Genesis 39, 40 & Matthew 14 |
| 3 Genesis 5, 6 & Matthew 3      | 20 Genesis 41, 42 & Matthew 15 |
| 4 Genesis 7, 8 & Psalm 1, 2     | 21 Genesis 43, 44 & Psalm 10   |
| 5 Genesis 9 – 11 & Matthew 4    | 22 Genesis 45, 46 & Matthew 16 |
| 6 Genesis 12, 13 & Matthew 5    | 23 Genesis 47, 48 & Matthew 17 |
| 7 Genesis 14, 15 & Psalm 3, 4   | 24 Genesis 49, 50 & Matthew 18 |
| 8 Genesis 16, 17 & Matthew 6    | 25 Exodus 1, 2 & Psalm 11, 12  |
| 9 Genesis 18, 19 & Matthew 7    | 26 Exodus 3, 4 & Matthew 19    |
| 10 Genesis 20, 21 & Matthew 8   | 27 Exodus 5, 6 & Matthew 20    |
| 11 Genesis 22, 23 & Psalm 5, 6  | 28 Exodus 7, 8 & Psalm 13, 14  |
| 12 Genesis 24, 25 & Matthew 9   | 29 Exodus 9, 10 & Matthew 21   |
| 13 Genesis 26, 27 & Matthew 10  | 30 Exodus 11, 12 & Matthew 22  |
| 14 Genesis 28, 29 & Psalm 7, 8  | 31 Exodus 13, 14 & Matthew 23  |
| 15 Genesis 30, 31 & Matthew 11  |                                |
| 16 Genesis 32, 33 & Matthew 12  |                                |
| 17 Genesis 34 – 36 & Matthew 13 |                                |

### **Office Hours & Contact Information**

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday,

9:00 am - 2:30 pm

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