

2400 Forest Hill Se • Grand Rapids, MI 49546



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

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Isaiah 11.1-16    | 17 Psalm 24          |
| 2 Isaiah 12.1-6     | 18 Isaiah 7.1-25     |
| 3 Isaiah 52.1-12    | 19 Isaiah 8.11 - 9.7 |
| 4 Jeremiah 33.1-26  | 20 Luke 1.1-25       |
| 5 Malachi 3.1-18    | 21 Luke 1.26-38      |
| 6 Malachi 4.1-6     | 22 Luke 1.39-56      |
| 7 Mark 1.1-13       | 23 Luke 1.57-80      |
| 8 John 1.19-34      | 24 Luke 2.1-20       |
| 9 Jophn 1.35-51     | 25 John 1.1-18       |
| 10 John 2.1-12      | 26 Luke 2.21-40      |
| 11 Isaiah 60.1-12   | 27 Luke 2.41-52      |
| 12 Isaiah 61.1-11   | 28 Titus 1.1-16      |
| 13 Isaiah 62.1-12   | 29 Titus 2.1-15      |
| 14 Zephaniah 3.1-20 | 30 Titus 3.1-15      |
| 15 Zechariah 8.1-23 | 31 Revelation 1.1-20 |
| 16 Zechariah 9.9-17 |                      |

**Office Hours & Contact Information**

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday,

9:00 am - 2:30 pm

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christ community church good news december 2011

**Make your preparations 'Advent'-urous**

Advent — the first season of the liturgical year — includes the four Sundays and weeks prior to December 25. Advent dates from the fourth century, when it lasted 40 days and included fasting and solemnity, much like Lent.

Advent is from Adventus, Latin for “coming,” referring to Jesus' birth in Bethlehem and also his second coming. The traditional colors of Advent are purple for penitence or blue for hope.

Observing Advent is a meaningful, adventurous way to prepare for Christmas. Buy or make an Advent wreath and use candles of your choice: four blue, four purple, or three blue or purple and one pink. If you have a fifth spot, add one white Christ candle. During meals or devotions, light only one candle the first week. Add another for each new week (the pink candle traditionally marks the third week), concluding with the white candle (if you have one) on Christmas. The increasing light reminds us we're getting closer to celebrating Christ's light coming into the world.

*Christmas Blessings from your church staff*

*Susanna Grigoryan*

*Chris Janowiak*

*Melissa VanLangen*

*Lynne Kammeraad*

*May your Christmas be a time to reflect on the simplicity of His birth and the magnitude of His purpose.*

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

## Worship ...

### Dec 4: 2nd Sunday of Advent

*What's In a Name? Power*  
Micah 5.2-5a; Rev 5.1-5

### Dec 11: 3rd Sunday of Advent

*What's In a Name? Truth*  
Rev 19.11-16; John 1.1-5

### Dec 18: 4th Sunday of Advent

*What's In a Name? Integrity & Justice*  
Jeremiah 23.1-6

### Dec 24: Christmas Eve

*What's In a Name? Presence*  
Isaiah 7.10-17; John 1.14-18

### Dec 25: Christmas Morning

*What's In a Name? Deliverance*  
Luke 1.26-38; Matthew 1.18-25

## Looking Ahead...

- 12/07 Blue Christmas Service
- 12/10 Open Sledding
- 12/11 Council Meeting
- 12/13 Entertainment Dining
- 12/24 Christmas Eve 5pm Svc
- 12/25 Christmas Day 10am Svc
- 01/08 Officer Installation

## Serving among us ...

### Liturgists

- 12/04 Lance Brown
- 12/11 Dylan Sanders
- 12/18 Bill Benson
- 12/25 Jennah Haminger

### Counters

- 12/04 Lorna Rose / Terry Wright
- 12/11 Terry Wright / Chet Knox
- 12/18 Chet Knox / Hattie Van Haaften
- 12/25 Hattie Van Haaften / Harry Wayman

### Greeters

- 12/04 Shirley Dekker
- 12/11 Dee Cook
- 12/18 Terry & Carol Wright
- 12/25 Chet Knox

### Ushers

- 12/04 Terry & Carol Wright
- 12/11 The Sanders Family
- 12/18 Brian Panek / Linda Vance
- 12/25 Harry Connie Wayman

### Welcome Center

- 12/04 Michelle Brown
- 12/11 Carol Wright
- 12/18 Shirley Dekker
- 12/25 Lin Yonkers

### PowerPoint

- Dec Harry Wayman

### Sound

- Dec Mike Kammeraad

### Bus Hosts

- Dec Chet Knox/Bill Benson/Greg Haminger

### Office Volunteers (folding)

- 12/01 Connie Wayman
- 12/08 Mary VanAllsburg
- 12/15 Lorna Rose
- 12/22 Thompsons/Paneks
- 12/29 Mary VanAllsburg

## Financially Speaking:

### What's Your Exit Strategy? (continued from last month)

As you approach retirement, you'll need a plan to convert your savings into a reliable stream of income. As you begin planning your exit strategy from the workforce, be sure to consider the following risks to your retirement income plan:

**The Buck Drops Here: Inflation and Health Care:** A quick trip to your local gas station provides a fresh reminder of how inflation can wreak havoc on your budget. But even a relatively low inflation rate can significantly reduce the purchasing power of your retirement savings. At a 3% inflation rate, a retiree with \$72,000 of living expenses would need more than twice that amount - more than \$150,000 - to meet those same annual expenses in 25 years.

The rising cost of health care is also likely to play a role in how long your savings last. A 65-year old couple retiring this year will need \$230,000 to pay for medical expenses throughout retirement, according to a recent study. Moreover, with the U.S. government struggling to reduce its budget deficit, potential reductions to Medicare could force you to shoulder a greater share of your future health care expenses.

If you are overly cautious and put all of your retirement savings in low-yielding fixed-income or cash investments, the purchasing power of your savings could actually decline over time. Therefore, to help protect yourself from rising prices, you may need to allocate a portion of your retirement savings to securities, (such as stocks or inflation-protected bonds), that have the potential to deliver a "real return" that outpaces inflation. Understand that this may create a more volatile portfolio. If that's not something you can tolerate, you may need to revisit your spending plans, work longer, or save more before you retire.

-MMBB Saver's Digest, 3rd Quarter 2011

### Dare to hope

*If you've ever given up on a dream, then you have something in common with Zechariah. When an angel brought news that Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, would soon have a son, Zechariah had trouble believing it (Luke 1:13-18).*

*How long had it been since Zechariah first prayed for a son? More to the point, how long had it been since he'd given up praying for a son? With the couple's childbearing years long past, Zechariah likely felt compelled to emphasize the impossibility of the angel's proclamation.*

*Perhaps you know what it's like to lose hope. Zechariah's story reminds us that God's plans cannot be hampered, even when the laws of nature stand in the way. Hold on to your hope because God works miracles.*

### Birthdays

Dec 3 Greg Haminger  
Dec 19 Aaron Tobian  
Dec 20 Harry Wayman  
Dec 23 Christy Ambrose  
Dec 30 Dylan Sanders  
Kyle Sanders

### Anniversaries

Dec 30 John & Lydia Tobian

### Entertainment dining

#### **Tuesday, December 12**

6:00 PM

**Derby Station** (Private Dining)  
(2237 Wealthy St)

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!

### First Fruits in December

The first 10% of our offering this month will go to:

12/04 Senior Sing A-Long  
12/11 Ridge Park Charter Academy/Giving Tree  
12/18 In the Image  
12/25 Christ Community Cares Fund

### We get letters...

**T**hank you for your first fruits gift, help for the persecuted church.

*This month we continue to explore and move ahead in supplying Christians in Libya with Bibles and other forms of aid. Even though Libya has just passed Sharia (Islamic) law, we are still called to be obedient to the Great Commission mandate.*

*We have much to be thankful for this holiday season. How better to express our gratitude than by sharing the love of Christ with his faithful followers in the persecuted Church? Thanks again.*

*Tom White, **Voice of the Martyrs***

**W**e would like to thank you for your first fruits gift. Working together, we can provide working solutions to hunger and poverty in Kent County. Your gift to Access plays a significant role in keeping this mission alive.

*Many thousands of individuals in our community benefit from the willingness of our partners to work together and support each other. Working cooperatively, we are a better, more efficient response program. We have only seen the needs in our community increase throughout the past year. As we continue to work to meet these needs, we hope for your continued support in the future. You are an invaluable part of that response and we are grateful for your trust and participation. We pledge to use your gift with wise stewardship and integrity.*

*Bruce Schlanderer, **Access***

### Blue Christmas

#### **A Service of Comfort and Hope...**

On Wednesday, December 7 at 7:00 PM, Christ Community Church is hosting its annual Blue Christmas service. During this special service, we acknowledge the pain and sadness many people experience as the holidays approach but also encourage people to move toward hope.

As we gather we will sing songs appropriate to the season, reflect on our pain through scripture, respond to God's word in a variety of ways and pray for hope and comfort. As the service concludes, people are invited to come forward and light a candle in memory of someone or to mark an event in their lives.



### Learning in community ~ Sundays, 11.15am

- **December 4 - December 18:** Grab a cup of coffee for an informal discussion in the Pastor's study as we unpack the sermon together. Because this is a shared learning experience, it would be helpful, though not required, to read and study the assigned passage prior to each discussion. You will find a list of scripture passages and sermon titles for the month on page 2 of your newsletter.

### Giving Tree

Our tree in the foyer needs decorations! Please consider adorning it with new hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks to be given to children at Ridge Park Charter Academy. Look for great deals at Target!

### 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.

**Christmas cards**

Each year, some of our congregation save the postage and cost for many of their Christmas cards by posting a single Christmas card for all their church friends on the Welcome Center, or you may also use church mailboxes for individual cards... And you may want to designate your postage savings for Christian Missions throughout the church.

**A Christmas tapestry**

*“Christmas reminds us we are not alone. We are not unrelated atoms, bouncing and ricocheting amid aliens, but are a part of something, which holds and sustains us. As we struggle with shopping lists and invitations, compounded by December's bad weather, it is good to be reminded that there are people in our lives who are worth this aggravation, and people to whom we are worth the same. Christmas shows us the ties that bind us together, threads of love and caring, woven in the simplest and strongest way within the family.”*

—Donald E. Westlake

**Year-end giving**

Just a reminder that the deadline for any year-end giving to qualify as a 2010 tax deduction is December 31, 2011. For information on transferring stock, please contact the church office. Year end contribution statements will be available in your church mailbox no later than January 31, 2012

**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

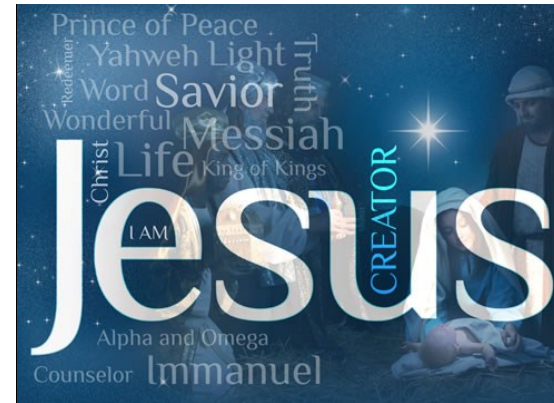
Margie Keizer  
2705 Clyde Park SW  
Wyoming, MI 49509-2008

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



**What's In a Name?**

*Christmas Eve Service  
December 24, 5pm*

*Christmas Morning Service  
December 25, 10am*

**Church officers elected**

**At the November 13 meeting of the congregation and corporation, the following officers were elected**

Vice-President (1 yr) ..... Connie Wayman  
Secretary / Councilor for Worship (2 yr) ..... Lance Brown  
Councilor for Fellowship (2 yr) ..... Lorna Rose  
Trustee (3 yr) ..... Mike Kammeraad  
Auditor (2 yr) ..... Mary VanAllsburg

**Continuing in Office:**

Treasurer (1 yr) ..... Chet Knox  
Trustee (1 yr) ..... Harry Wayman  
Trustee (2 yr) ..... Bill Benson  
Auditor (1 yr) ..... Michelle Brown

**Thank you to our graduating officers:**

Vice-President ..... Connie Wayman  
Secretary ..... Pam Runciman  
Councilor for Worship ..... Lance Brown  
Councilor for Fellowship ..... Sue Plummer / Carol Wright  
Councilor for Stewardship ..... Mike kammeraad  
Trustee ..... Terry Wright  
Auditor ..... John Yonkers

**Upcoming Events for Church Officers**

- Sunday, December 11: Council meeting for present and incoming officers
- Sunday, January 8: Installation of New Officers in Worship