9:30 AM ORDER OF WORSHIP

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP
Call to Worship
Silent Prayer

WE RESPOND IN PRAISE
*Psalm of Adoration: *Jehovah Is My Light* **PH 48**
*Votum & Salutation

GOD DECLARES THE LAW & THE GOSPEL
The Law of God
Psalm of Response: *Lord, I Life My Soul to Thee* **PH 44**
Assurance of Pardon

WE OFFER HIM OUR PRAYERS & GIFTS
Congregational Prayer
Offertory Prayer
Offering: *General Fund*

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD
*Hymn of Preparation: *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* **PH 339**
Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7
Sermon: THE GOSPEL OF ISAIAH II: THE GREAT LIGHT

1. **The Christmas Victory Promised (v. 1-3)**
2. **The Christmas Victory Described (v. 4,5)**
3. **The Christmas Victor (v. 6,7)**

Applicatory Prayer

WE RESPOND IN FAITH
Hymn of Response*: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* **PH 331 v.1-3**
Offering: Benevolence
*Doxology: **PH 493**

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below, Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Amen.

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS BLESSING
*Benediction
**Indicates standing for those able to do so*

5:30 PM ORDER OF WORSHIP

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP
Call to Worship
Silent Prayer

WE RESPOND IN PRAISE & CONFESSION OF FAITH
*Psalm of Adoration: *God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength* **PH 85**
*Votum & Salutation
*Apostles Creed (pg.3) & Response **PH 316 v.3**

All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given, The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven, The one eternal God, Whom earth and heaven adore; For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

GOD INSTRUCTS US THROUGH THE PSALMS
Psalm Selection: Psalm 40:1-5
Psalm Singing: *I Waited for the Lord Most High* **PH 71**

WE OFFER HIM OUR PRAYERS & GIFTS
Congregational Prayer
Offertory Prayer
Offering: Mid America Reformed Seminary

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD
*Hymn of Preparation: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* **PH 407**
Confessional Reading: Lords Day 17, Q&A 45
Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-13
Sermon: WHERE'S THE BODY?

1. **The Centrality of the Resurrection (v. 8-10)**
2. **The Benefits From the Resurrection (v. 11,12a)**
3. **The Threats From the Resurrection (v. 12b,13)**

Applicatory Prayer

WE RESPOND IN FAITH
*Hymn of Response: *Alleluia! Alleluia!* **PH 360**
*Doxology: **PH 326 v.1,2**

Savior, again to Thy dear Name we raise With one accord our parting hymn of praise; We stand to bless Thee ere our worship cease, And now, departing, wait Thy word of peace. Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way; With Thee began, with Thee shall end the day; Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame, That in this house have called upon Thy Name.

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS BLESSING
*Benediction
**Indicates standing for those able to do so*

An exciting event for our church will be the ordination and installation of our new pastor. This will take place on **Saturday, January 13, at 5:30 PM**. We have all witnessed the installation of ministers, but this one will also be for an ordination. An ordination of a minister is most rare for a congregation, and has only happened in our church one other time, for the ordination and installation of Rev. Vos in 1996. A Saturday date was chosen to accommodate Stoffregen family, classis ministers and members from Kalamazoo churches with which we have ecclesiastical fellowship, who wish to attend.

Pastor-Elect Stoffregen would like to establish some office hours here at church. He would be available there on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Church Family

The **Stoffregen** family thanks the congregation for the many cards, words of encouragement and expressions of Christian sympathy in the passing of Mr. Stoffregen's grandfather. They are thankful to be a part of this faith family.

Please pray for **Tim and Matt Kloosterman, and Sam Newhouse**, as they travel to Houston, Texas on a disaster relief project for Reformed Mission Services. They will leave this Friday the 15th and return home on Saturday, December 23.

General Announcements

Anyone who might like to own a copy of the new Trinity Psalter Hymnal; they are now available at a 15% discounted pre-publication price of $19.55. Also available is an accompanist edition at a discounted price of $39.25. Please sign up on the sheet in the cry room. They will be ordered but not be available until June 15. The Council is ordering 60 copies and 2 copies of the accompanist edition, to have available for church use.

The Board of Reformed Heritage Christian School is thankful for the blessings of the Lord as we have witnessed over these last 20+ years. We continue to strive to provide a Biblical, Reformed Christian education and keep it as affordable as possible to our families. Please prayerfully consider this cause of Kingdom work as part of your year-end giving.

Covenant's Calendar for This Week

TODAY	**9:30 AM**	Morning Worship Service Sunday School Program
	5:30 PM	Evening Worship Service Men's Prayer Meeting (10 min. after evening service)
MONDAY	**7:00 PM**	Elder's Meeting
WEDNESDAY	**10:00 AM – Noon**	Providence Christmas Program Practice
THURSDAY	**7:00 PM**	Providence Christmas Program

	Today	Next Week
Ushers	Josh Vander Meer Don Vander Roest Robert Wallinga	Josh Vander Meer Don Vander Roest Robert Wallinga (**And Christmas**)
Greeters AM	Joy Mejeur & Evelyn Sportel	Linda Klomparens & Family (Paul & Maureen Herder – **Christmas**)
Greeters PM	Doug & April Hoeksema	Bill & Cheryl Koning
Nursery AM	Maria & Lydia Horjus	Christy Nagel & Lydia Kloosterman (Hanna Newhouse & Lauren Klomparens **Christmas**)
Nursery PM	Kari Leep & Lexi Van Dyk	Ruth Newhouse & Kaitlyn DeJonge

Lord's Day Worship | December 17, 2017

"Come let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. If you are visiting with us for the first time, we invite you to fill out a visitor's card and place it in the offering basket.

Announcements

This morning our offering will be for the General Fund. The evening offering will be for Mid America Reformed Seminary.
Next Sunday's morning offering is for the General Fund. The evening offering will be for Reformed Youth Services. The Christmas offering will be for our Young People.

Sunday School will have their Christmas Program today after the morning service. There are no Catechism classes. Catechism and Sunday School classes will then resume on January 7, 2018.

Ten minutes after the evening service tonight, the **Men's Prayer Group** will meet.

Tonight, after the evening service, the Y**outh Group** will meet for the Christmas Party. Please bring a $5 gift. The leaders will provide the meal and Adam has devotions and game.

At the Annual Congregational Meeting last Monday evening, Dan Herder and Doug Hoeksema were elected as Elders, Thomas Koning and Bob Wallinga were elected as Deacons. The proposal for upgrading to an LED lit sign was defeated. The back lit sign for $7,000.00 as already approved by the Council will be installed.

Elected as officers of the Council for the coming year were President, Pastor Stoffregen; Vice President, Elder Brian Eshuis; and Clerk, Elder Stan Nagel, in compliance with our policy that a Clerk only serve **two years.** The Deacons will elect their officers at their next meeting, which will be announced then.

The installation of new office-bearers, which would ordinarily have been December 31, has been postponed to January 14, so that our new pastor can install them after his ordination and installation on January 13. The first Council meeting with the new Council will be January 15.

For the ordination and installation service of our new pastor scheduled for Saturday, January 13, Rev. Jeph Nobel, Pastor of the Eastmanville URC, and Pastor Stoffregen's pastor while studying at the seminary, will lead the service, do the ordination and give the charge to the minister. Professor David Murray from Puritan Seminary will preach the sermon, and Rev. Admiraal will give the charge to the congregation. Representatives from the Classis Michigan Consistories have also been invited. Invitations have also been sent to the congregations of Immanuel Fellowship, Community Presbyterian, and the Good Shepherd PCA church plant (Rev. Neil Quinn) here in Kalamazoo.

The **youth group** would like to make known that as a group we are willing to provide help with yard work, painting, or other household tasks that members may need help with. Please contact one of the leaders to let us know how we can help.

The next **choir practice** is scheduled for the 24th. If you are unable to make it, please pick up a copy of the music.

A Christmas break afternoon gathering is planned for **Friday, December 29,** from 2-4 p.m. Moms and kids (and anyone else!) are invited to join for an afternoon of fellowship. Kids may sled if there is snow. Please bring a snack or two for sharing. If you have a favorite game, feel free to bring it along too. Speak with Kim Balkema for more information.

Just a reminder to place Covenant's 25th Anniversary on your calendar for **Friday, January 5th beginning at 6pm.** Please RSVP by Next Friday, December 22nd to CURC25thAnniversary@gmail.com or you may call Char DeBoer at 269-329-0633. If you would like to contribute to a dessert buffet please contact Char DeBoer.

All our former pastors, Rev. Phil & Brenda Vos, Rev. Wybren & Kathy Oord along with Rev. James & Raylene Oord, Rev. Jeremy Veldman, and Rev. James and Rita Admiraal, plan to be with us for our 25th anniversary dinner.

Please remember our members during our Holiday season:

Dorothy Balkema
5810 South 29th St.
Scotts, MI 49088

John Balkema
Oakview Terrace – Room 134
2920 Crystal Lane
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Betty Mejeur
Crystal Woods – Room 17
2920 Crystal Lane
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Judy Zigterman
7574 Garden Lane
Portage, MI 49002

Jim Mejeur
Room 104
2920 Crystal Lane
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Nellie Wiersma
Room 218
2920 Crystal Lane
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Herm & Janet Franke
9643 S. Westnedge Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49002

Calvin Miersma
6600 Constitution Apt. 420
Portage, MI 49024

Lois Newmeyer
Crystal Woods-Room 21
2920 Crystal Lane
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Harriet Slomp
4029 Lakeside Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Peter Sluys
The Fountains
1700 Bronson Way, Apt. 16
Kalamazoo, MI 49009