

SERMON NOTES:

Passages: Luke 4 :1-13 **Sermon Title:** Resistance is Fruitful

ALLEN AVENUE
CHRISTIAN
REFORMED CHURCH



Contact Us:

Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church
695 Allen Ave. Muskegon, MI 49442



(231) 722-6411



www.allenavechurch.org



susan.vanderlaan@allenavechurch.org



PASTOR MARK HOFMAN
WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM
FEBRUARY 11, 2024

Come...Now is the Time to Worship!

Sunday, February 11, 2024

Pastor Mark Hofman

WELCOMED

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Invitation to Quiet

CALLED TO WORSHIP

Call to Worship (Psalm 50:1-6)

Leader: The LORD, the Mighty One, is God, and he has spoken;

People: *he has summoned all humanity from where the sun rises to where it sets.*

Leader: From Mount Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines in glorious radiance.

People: *Our God approaches, and he is not silent.*

Leader: Fire devours everything in his way, and a great storm rages around him.

People: *He calls on the heavens above and earth below to witness the judgment of his people.*

Leader: "Bring my faithful people to me—those who made a covenant with me by giving sacrifices."

People: *Then let the heavens proclaim his justice, for God himself will be the judge.*

*Opening Hymn of Praise *This is My Father's World* LUYH 21

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

Call to Confession (James 4:7-10)

So let God work his will in you. Yell a loud no to the Devil and watch him make himself scarce. Say a quiet yes to God and he'll be there in no time. Quit dabbling in sin. Purify your inner life. Quit playing the field. Hit bottom and cry your eyes out. The fun and games are over. Get serious, really serious. Get down on your knees before the Master; it's the only way you'll get on your feet.

Assurance of Pardon (Hebrews 12:1-13)

*Song *When Peace Like a River* LUYH 451

Children's Blessing

The Lord loves you. He promises to be with you!

Praise him for being so good. May he bless you as you worship him.

Prayers of the People

Pastor Mark

LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK

*Song of Preparation *Lord, I Need You*

Scripture Passage : Luke 4 :1-13

(Leader: "This is the Word of the Lord." **People:** *"Thanks be to God."*)

Message : Resistance is Fruitful

Prayer of Application

*Song of Response *Before the Throne of God Above* LUYH 682

SENT OUT

Our Offerings: General Fund

*[offerings may be given online at allenavechurch.org
or in the baskets at each entrance]*

*God's Parting Blessing

*Parting Song of Praise *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* LUYH 776

*Postlude

We Live to B.L.E.S.S.

*Believe. Love. Evangelize.
Support Christian Education. Serve.*



NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

- 2/11: Charry Snyder & Karen Alphenaar
Coffee Fellowship: Congregational Life
- 2/18: Toni Schuitema & Renee Vlasma
Coffee Fellowship: Congregational Life
- 2/25: Lis Miedema & Dale Johnson
Coffee Fellowship: Brian & Jill Schuitema
- 3/3: Sherrie Wolffis & Tayla Vlasma
Coffee Fellowship: ???



ALLEN AVENUE MISSIONARIES

***Pray for the * Missionary this Week**

***Stephan and Alicia Lutz – Kenya**

Rev. Jerry An – Back to God Ministries
Angel Community Church – Muskegon
Paul & Charlotte Mpindi – Mission French Africa
Charles & Hensel Oh – Philippines



ALLEN AVENUE CARE LIST

Joann Deitz	*Wilma Doctor	Jim Doornbos
Vicky Fisher	Lois Grinwis	Joel Stefanits
Betty TenBrink	Ro Verheul	June Walcott

***Please send a card to “Care List Member” Wilma Doctor!
3637 Whispering Woods Dr., Muskegon, MI 49444**

*We give praise that God sees and knows each one and that we have the gift of these saints and their godly examples in our lives. No matter what they face, Jesus is present and each one matters and is never forgotten. **You are LOVED!**

WELCOME TO ALLEN AVENUE CRC

A Warm Welcome to Our Visitors, Guests, & Members!



We are rejoicing that you have come to join us in worship this Sunday. During Lent at Allen Avenue, Pastor Mark will be preaching a series of sermons from the Gospels with the theme: *The Way Up is Down.* After the worship

service, please join us downstairs for Allen Avenue's first-ever **Valentine's Day Hot Chocolate Bar & Sweet Treats** with **LOVE** from your Congregational Life Committee...you're going to **LOVE** this, so make sure you come down to share in the fun & fellowship! **XOXO**

CRC DENOMINATION & AACRC COUNCIL NEWS

February 14 marks the start of Lent for 2024. Lent is a forty-day season of preparation and repentance during which we anticipate Holy Week and Easter. Just as we carefully prepare for big events in our personal lives, such as a wedding or commencement, Lent invites us to make our hearts ready for remembering Jesus' crucifixion and celebrating Jesus' resurrection. The number forty carries biblical significance based on the forty years Israel spent in the wilderness and Jesus' forty-day fast in the wilderness. The forty days of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday and continue through holy week, not counting Sundays. In practice, many congregations choose to focus Sunday worship on the themes of repentance and renewal. As a period of preparation, Lent has historically included the instruction of persons for baptism and profession of faith on Easter Sunday; the calling back of those who have become estranged from the church; and efforts by all Christians to deepen their piety, devotion, and readiness to mark the death and resurrection of their Savior. As such, the primary focus of the season is to explore and deepen a "baptismal spirituality" that centers on our union with Christ rather than to function only as an extended meditation on Christ's suffering and death.

- Pastor Mark

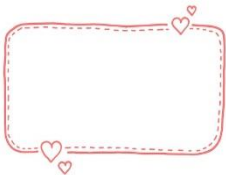
CRC DENOMINATION & AACRC COUNCIL NEWS

During Lent at Allen Avenue, Pastor Mark will be preaching a series of sermons from the Gospels with the theme: *The Way Up is Down*. Jesus tells us to take up our cross, to be born again, to lose our lives, and to be servants. All of these commands come from the Savior who came to us and went down to death for us so that we could be raised up with him. He is the one who shows us how *The Way Up is Down*. A book by the same title is what Pastor Mark will be reading and mentioning during sermons: "[The Way Up is Down: Becoming Yourself By Forgetting Yourself](#)" Though many small groups and studies at church are set for this season, if you're looking for further reading - feel free to take up and join!

Valentine's Day is soon approaching. Let's remember our undergrad college students with notes of encouragement and delicious snacks. There are bags in the basement for Taylor Johnson, in her second year of general studies at MCC; Kayla Johnson, a senior at Michigan studying Sport Management; Yeabsira Vlasma, a sophomore at Saginaw Valley studying Finance; Devin Snyder, in his third year of studies, currently online through South University in Savannah, GA, studying Criminal Justice; and Emily Snyder, in her first year at Grace Christian University studying Human Services. Darlene Peklar's granddaughter, Emma, is in her second year at Michigan State University. Let's celebrate these six students! **TODAY, February 11, is the last week to put your BLESSing in their bags!**

Pastor Mark & family will be on a family vacation February 14-20. We will welcome Pastor Jeffrey Hough from Angel Community Church to lead us in worship on Sunday, February 18. Please contact your district elder or deacon if a need or concern arises while the Hofman Family is gone.

Pray for our Council - for vision, wisdom, leadership, steadfastness, and unity...for Brian Schuitema (President), Sherrie Wolffis, Gabe Vlasma (Vice President), Jean Botting (Treasurer), Pastor Mark, Judy Vaandering, Dave Miedema (Clerk), Scott Schuitema, Charry Snyder, Barb Malda (Asst. Clerk), Mary Kortman, Amber Johnson, & Nate Schout.



The church secretary has a new email address!

Please add this email to your newest directory and to your computer contacts as the old one will only last for a short time:

susan.vanderlaan@allenavechurch.org

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

Muskegon Christian School has been very blessed with members from AACRC watching staff kids during Monday staff meetings/faith integration training.

We are prayerfully looking for volunteers on the following dates from 2:50-4:30pm: March 4 and 11, April 8, May 6 and 13.

Freezer Ministry will be gathering on Friday, February 16, at 9:30am to create some amazing dishes and sides to deliver to our Care Members and to restock the freezer when a future need arises. If you have questions or would like to help or make contributions from home to the baskets, please contact Sherrie Wolffis at slwolffis@gmail.com or call her at 231.744.5455.

Advance Notice: It is AACRC's turn to minister to the residents at Christian Care on March 20, at 10:00am. If you can join Pastor Mark on this day and help as he serves communion, please let him know!

Inviting all Ladies of AACRC: Let the Adventure Begin...have you been in the church a long time but still struggle to hear from God? Or is walking with Jesus brand new to you, and you're not even sure that He speaks? Either way our new Ladies Bible/Book Study will help you walk into deeper intimacy with the One who made you and wants to speak to you. On Thursday, February 15 at 1:30pm, Erika DeJonge, Jack & Laurie's daughter-in-law, and author of the book *Every Step - Adventures with Jesus* will be joining us in person (!) to introduce us to her 40 days of guided prayer during her three years in Nepal that we will be using for Lent. If you were looking for a shorter commitment to a study and desire to be more purposeful about Lent this year, this is the perfect time to join us! Erika's book can be ordered off Amazon...talk to Laurie if you have questions.

Now Hiring... Hey college students! Are you looking for an opportunity to have the best summer ever? Then we're looking for you at the Christian Reformed Conference Grounds in Grand Haven! We are a family campground and ministry center located on the shores of Lake Michigan. We're currently accepting applications for the store team, Bible School teachers, and a youth leader (female). These are full-time paid positions for the summer and include your living accommodations. If you enjoy serving in an atmosphere of faith and community, this might be the place for you! To apply for store/Bible School teacher positions, please email ministry@crcg.org. To apply for Youth Leader, please email youthministry@crcg.org. Or you can give us a call for more information at 616-842-4478. We are looking forward to hearing from you!

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

Thanks to the Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Congregation for their outstanding support for the Muskegon Right to Life "Life- Saver" Fund Raiser. Through their wonderful generosity, we collected \$283.00 for our billboard efforts. - **Ron Friday**

Karen Alphenaar's sister, Kathy, was able to have her CAT scan and get into Mayo's last week Friday. This is such an answer to prayer. Her CAT scan came back and the cancer did NOT spread to other areas! Kathy's surgery is Thursday, February 15. Pray that this will be successful, and she will be clear of all colon cancer. Thanks so much for your prayers! - **Karen Alphenaar**

Prayers for **Charry Synder and Devin** as they travel to New Mexico to help her sister and her foster children. - **Brian Schuitema**

A friend of mine recently became an empty nester. Prayers for the grieving and adjustment to his new life path. - **Denise Koetje**

Update for our brother-in-law, **Lawrence**. The imaging studies show a small spot behind one of his eyes. Although they do not yet have a diagnosis, Lawrence says he is feeling much better. - **Steve & Nancy Rop**

Please continue to pray for our **granddaughter Faith** and that her med adjustment will keep her from having anymore seizures. - **Jack & Sherrie Wolffis**

Nate Schout's dad finished his last cancer chemotherapy treatment last week Tuesday. He is in good spirits. Probably won't have the CT results until early March. Please pray that the cancer is gone! - **Nate & Becky Schout**

Thanks and prayers continue for my friend **Pat Farmer** with the death of her daughter **Liz** late last year. This past week, Liz celebrated her birthday in heaven. As we heard from Sunday's service on heaven, we are in awe of this Jesus who loves us so. For those of us who have lost or are losing loved ones in this life, we are given such great hope and comfort. **Pat** has been able to donate many of the left over, new, sealed, non-expired health items from Liz. We are so thankful that **Mike Fongers'** place has been the recipient of many of these gifts. *(Please, if anyone needs unused health items, let the Rops know, so they can support Pat bringing praises to Jesus!)* - **Stan & Peg Rop**

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

Last week Friday, our friends **Keri and Fernando Vergara**, faced awful wildfires near their new home in Chile. While thankfully their apartment and Fernando's university were spared, many thousands of homes were burned, and hundreds of lives lost. Please pray for their neighbors who are facing grief and challenges, as well as for Keri and Fernando as they transition during this challenging time. - **Pastor Mark**

Please keep **Wilma Doctor** in prayer as she has had her angiogram rescheduled for next week Friday, the 16th. - **Ken & Wilma**

Update on our sister, **Barb Rop Becker**. Good news as they have determined her eye problems are due to dryness. She has been on eye drops, but the ophthalmologist has told her she needs to try others to see which works better. Please continue to pray for her insurance coverage. Thanks for your prayers. - **Steve & Nancy Rop/Stan Rop & Peg Rop/Dave Rop**

Continued prayers for **Marie Bursey** (DIBS) niece **Princess** (5-years-old) who continues to receive chemotherapy treatments every other week. Also, for Marie's brother, Chris who recently passed away from Cancer. Marie is guardian of her brother's children and has been working through some issues with them. It has been decided that they are going to be living with an older sibling in Texas. Please pray for a smooth transition and adjustment. - **Jill Schuitema**

Doug Weirs (Jake Wolffis' father-in-law) also needs lifting up as he has had a setback the day after going home from the hospital. He was re-admitted with pneumonia, and his doctors were able to drain a quart of fluid from his left lung. Pray that his body can adjust to all this and heal. - **Jack & Sherrie Wolffis**

Updates on **Sunday School this week from Sue Sytsema:**

- We are going to remember how much God loves us by sharing that love with our college kids.
- We are going to make Valentine's cards for their bags!



PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

Updates on **MCS** from **Nate Schout**:

- The aquarium has water and is running. Next step is the fish. Hoping to transfer some soon!
- The school has garnered a lot of attention and I'm doing more and more tours. It's very exciting.
- Please pray for volunteers to sign up to watch staff kids March/April/May. Thanks so much for all your help!

WMC is excited that they started a new semester and life is busy! Winter sports are all happening and we, too, are excited and thankful for all that is provided for our students! Keep praying for the facility and no more school closings!

-Principal Chris Ruitter

We pray for **parents, students, teachers**, and all those in education both at Allen Avenue and in private and public schools.

Prayers for our students as they work to find God's will in their lives.

Continue to pray this challenge for Pastor Mark from the book *21 Days of Breakthrough Prayer*.

"...We will pray earnestly together for Pastor Mark and his family. We will lift the "shield of faith" over him and call his name out before almighty God, asking Him to bless, encourage, and strengthen him. Pastors are under tremendous attacks in today's culture, and they need our prayers and encouragement in every area of their lives. God will be very pleased with His church as we selflessly take this time to intercede for Pastor Mark**. Remember a healthy pastor is a healthy church. A healthy church changes the world!"**

--Jim Cymbala, Jim & Cathy, Maxim, and Daniel Henderson

(**Personalization using Pastor Mark's name was added.)

Why MCS?



We know that the period of elementary school years is important to both you and your little one, which is why we at **Muskegon Christian School** aspire to:

Love

Jesus calls us to love all and there is such variety within the kingdom of God. We have children coming from all walks of life, including various socioeconomic backgrounds and ethnicities, from foster care to adoption and even other countries. We will love them as Christ loves so they learn to do the same within their communities.

Learn

The learning process shouldn't be dull. With our signature programs, your child will feel engaged in class and excited to be here. Families can choose from an [English](#) track or full-time [Spanish immersion program](#). The pre-K class is beginning a nature-based learning experience starting the 2021-2022 school year and K-6 outdoor programs won't be far behind. With an average class size of 15 students per class, your child will be loved and cared for. We include [project-based learning](#) and STEM in the learning process and offer clubs, after school [activities](#), and music and [art classes](#).

Lead

We are Earth Keepers, Image Reflectors, Community Builders and Justice Seekers. Our [Teaching for Transformation](#) framework teaches our children to be servant leaders as God calls us to be. While we [teach from biblical truths](#) daily, the MCS staff strives to engrain the necessary tools into the hearts and minds of our students to return to the world and grow to be leaders of God's people.

(Next week...Why WMC?)