

SERMON NOTES:

Scripture: Pew Bible Pg. #905

Message: *A Tree of Life*

**ALLEN AVENUE  
CHRISTIAN  
REFORMED CHURCH**



**Contact Us:**

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



(231) 722-6411



[www.allenavechurch.org](http://www.allenavechurch.org)

[pastor@allenavechurch.org](mailto:pastor@allenavechurch.org)



[susan.vanderlaan@allenavechurch.org](mailto:susan.vanderlaan@allenavechurch.org)



**PASTOR MARK HOFMAN  
JANUARY 4, 2026  
Worship-10:00AM**

# Come...Now is the Time to Worship!

Sunday, January 4, 2026

**Pastor Mark Hofman**

## GATHERED TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and announcements

Invitation to Quiet

Call To Worship

Leader: Blessed is the one

    who does not walk in step with the wicked  
or stand in the way that sinners take  
    or sit in the company of mockers,

**People: but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and who meditates on his law day and night.**

Leader: That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
    which yields its fruit in season

**People: and whose leaf does not wither—  
whatever they do prospers.**

Opening Song of Praise

*The Tree Song*

*Ken Medema*

\*God's Greeting

\*We Greet One Another

## INSTALLATION OF ELDERS & DEACONS

Song of Dedication

*May the Mind of Christ, My Savior*

*LUYH 334*

Children's Blessing (in unison):

**May God go with you.  
Love him with all your heart.  
Serve him with gladness.  
Sing to him with joy. Bring him the glory.**

Prayers of the People

Tim Maat

## LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK

Song of Preparation      *The Perfect Wisdom of Our God*

Scripture Passage:      Proverbs 3:1-20      Pew Bible Pg. #905

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

Message      *A Tree of Life*

Prayer of Application

\*Song of Response      *My Worth is Not in What I Own*      (stanzas 1-3)

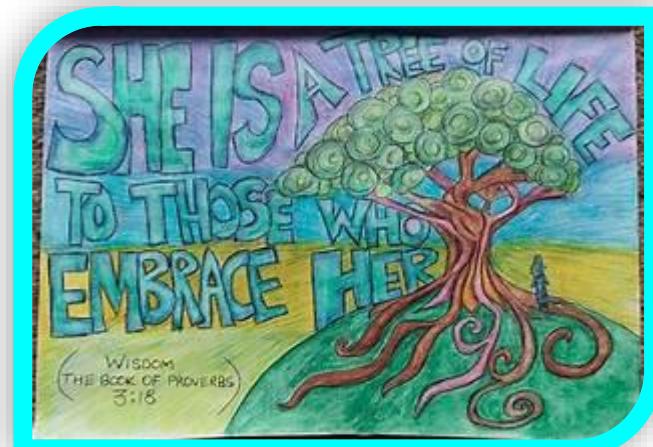
## SENT OUT TO SERVE

Offering      General Fund

[offerings may be given online at [allenavechurch.org](http://allenavechurch.org)  
or placed in the baskets at each entrance]

\*Parting Song of Praise      *My Worth is Not in What I Own*      (stanzas 4,5)

\*Postlude



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

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



## NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



1/4: Nursery: Stephanie Hofman & Beth VanRees  
Children in Worship: Kelly Dauser & Judy Vaandering  
Coffee Fellowship: Bob & Susan Vanderlaan & Denise Kanaar  
1/11: Nursery: Laurie DeJonge & Deb Anderson  
Children in Worship: Jill Schuitema & Amber Johnson  
Coffee Fellowship: Rog & Laurie Slorf  
1/18: Nursery: Carol Peterman & Maelin Vlasma  
Sunday School/Catechism  
Coffee Fellowship: Jack & Sherrie Wolffis  
1/25: Nursery: Amber Johnson & Becki Fisher  
Children in Worship: Deb Anderson & Carol Peterman  
Coffee Fellowship: Judy, Eric, & Stacy Vaandering



## ALLEN AVENUE MISSIONARIES

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

**\*Eric & Judith Tuls – Operation Mobilization**

Rev. Jerry An – Back to God Ministries  
Pastor Jeffery Hough – Angel Community Church  
Paul & Charlotte Mpindi–Mission French Africa  
Charles & Hensel Oh – Japan



## ALLEN AVENUE CARE LIST

1) Betty TenBrink	4) <b>Ro VerHeul</b>
2) Joel Stefanits	5) Jim Doornbos
3) Wilma Doctor	

\*Please call or send a card to Care List Member, Ro!  
1249 Lakeshore Dr., Apt. 339, Muskegon, MI 49441

**Dear Care List Members, Every time we think of you, we say a prayer  
that the day will be a gentle one for you...a day that brings you plenty  
of comfort, reasons to smile, and lots & lots of reminders  
how very loved you are during this New Year and always!**



## A Warm Welcome to Our Visitors, Guests, and Members!

We are so thankful you are here to worship the Babe of Bethlehem and our Bright and Morning Star! We are beginning this new year with a new sermon series. Pastor Mark will be

taking us through the book of Proverbs as we journey on to greater wisdom in our Christian pilgrimage. Today we will be looking at Proverbs 3 – “The Tree of Life.” Please join us downstairs after the service for a time of fellowship with the family of God here at Allen Avenue!

### January/February Sermon Series: “**Resolute - A Study in Proverbs**”

- ✚ January 4 – Proverbs 3:1-20 “A Tree of Life”
- ✚ January 11 – Proverbs 3:21 – 4:27 “Heart-Guard”
- ✚ January 18 – Proverbs 6:1-19 “Wise Ants”
- ✚ January 25 – Proverbs 9:1-18 “Feast or Death”
- ✚ February 1 – Proverbs 11:2-11 “Righteousness in the City”
- ✚ February 8 – Proverbs 12:1-4 & 31:10-31 “Nobility Crowned”
- ✚ February 15 – Proverbs 13:24 & 17:1-17 “Household Wisdom”

## COUNCIL & DENOMINATION NEWS

On Sundays after the morning service, from January 18 through February 1, **there will be a three-week “class” on making profession of faith** and joining Allen Avenue as a member of the congregation. Do you want to know more about baptism and making profession of faith? Are you discerning God’s call to join the church as a member, with its privileges and responsibilities? Come join us for conversation, led by Pastor Mark and the elders, about how you are a vital part of Allen Avenue’s mission to “Live to Bless.”

**SAVE THE DATE:** All Council members and committee members will be meeting for our 2026 Goal-Setting Breakfast Worship on Saturday, January 10, from 9:00-11:00am in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast will be provided by your council. May the Holy Spirit give us great wisdom as we prayerfully cast vision for what God has for His flock here at AACRC during this upcoming year!

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

### **A new 2026 church directory will be coming out in the next few weeks.**

Please take a moment to check over your information in the sample directories placed in the church office, by the cookie window, and on the collection tables. Make any corrections or additions needed. If all information is correct, please put a "check mark" next to your name, so we know that you have seen and ok'd your information. **If you are**

**new to Allen Avenue** and would like to be added to this new directory, please write your name, address, email, and phone number(s) on one of the sample copies...thank you for your prompt attention and action to connect us better!

**Muskegon Christian School** has been very blessed with members from AACRC watching staff kids during Monday staff meetings and faith integration training. We are prayerfully looking for volunteers on the following dates from 2:50-4:30pm: January 5 & 12, February 2 & 9, March 2 & 9, April 13, and May 4 & 11.

**GEMS will meet in the church basement on Wednesday, January 7 from 6:15 - 8:00pm.** We will learn something about Daniel and about how God can still be trusted even in times of trouble. Remember to bring your Bibles with you. See you Wednesday!

**Men's Bible Study** will start up on Monday, January 12, at 6:15pm.

**"Hearts on Fire" Women's Bible Study** will resume on Thursday, January 15, from 1:30-3:00pm. Prepare Session Four personal Bible study on pg. 81-105.

**The Cadets invite all interested Allen Avenue attendees to join us** for a Muskegon Lumberjacks game on **Saturday, January 17th @ 6PM.** Please contact Pastor Mark (510-775-3620) by January 4th with your interest and plan to attend the game. \*If the \$15 ticket price is a deterrent, the Cadets will help defray some of the costs.

## PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

"I wish to thank each of you who put cards and goodies in my Christmas bag. I am so blessed to be part of the "Family of God" at Allen Avenue! Blessings to all of you in the New Year!" Sincerely with Love, **Betty TenBrink**