

SERMON NOTES:

Sermon: "Wealth & Worry: Choked by Thorns" (Thorny Soil)

Scripture: Luke 8:1-21

ALLEN AVENUE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



Contact Us:

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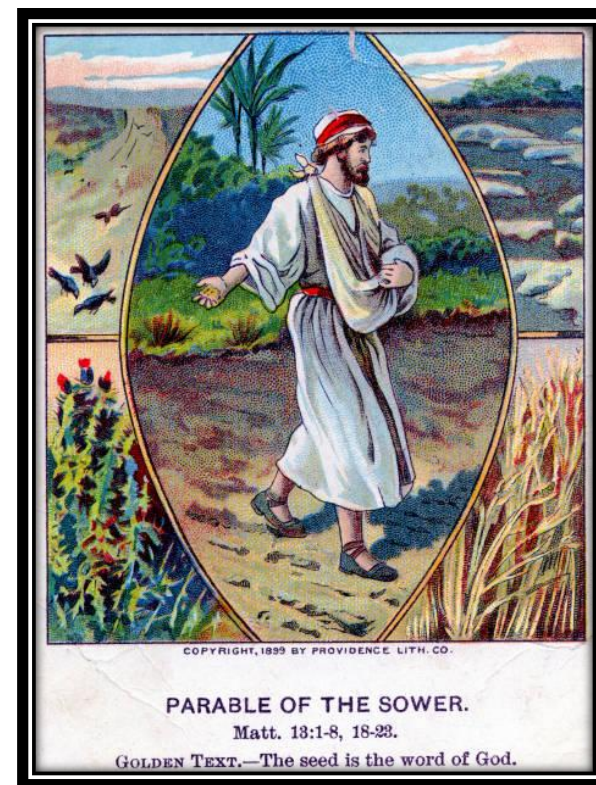
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PASTOR MARK HOFMAN
AUGUST 24, 2025
WORSHIP 10:00AM

Come...Now is the Time to Worship!

Sunday, August 24, 2025
Allen Avenue CRC
Pastor Mark Hofman

We Gather to Worship

Prelude
Welcome and Announcements
Invitation to Quiet

Call to Worship

Leader: Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things;
People: his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.
Leader: The LORD has made his salvation known & revealed his righteousness
to the nations.
People: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel;
Leader: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

*Song of Praise *Joy to the World*

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

We Are Renewed in God's Grace

Scripture Reading ~ Jeremiah 4:3-4

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession
Leader: Lord, you said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."
People: We confess that our lives are often consumed by worry and anxiety.
Leader: Lord, you said, "If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit."
People: Forgive our unfruitful lives, Lord.
Leader: Lord, you said, "You must testify, for you know me."
People: We confess, Lord, that we have been too often silent.

Leader: Lord, you said, "Love each other as I have loved you."

People: Help us, Lord, to love and serve one another. As the seed of your Word is planted in our hearts, help us—and all those around us—to be good soil, receptive to all that you desire for us to know, to love and to do.
All: Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Song *Rooted in Christ*

Children's Message Kelly Dauser

Children's Blessing
Jesus loves the little children of the world.
May his blessing be upon you. May his love surround you.
May his joy fill you. Go in Peace

Prayers of the People Pastor Mark

We Listen to God Speak

Scripture Luke 8:1-21 Pew Bible Page #1473
Leader: "This is the Word of the Lord." **People: "Thanks be to God."**

Message "Wealth & Worry: Choked by Thorns" (Thorny Soil)

Prayer

We Are Nourished at God's Table

*Song *Bringing in the Sheaves* *Our Great Redeemer's Praise*
[the congregation is invited to gather in groups to be served the bread and cup]

We Are Sent Out to Serve

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 *Across the Lands* LUYH 775

*Postlude

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

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

NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

8/24: Nursery: Mary Maat & Renee Vlasma
Children in Worship: Deb Anderson & Dale Johnson
Coffee Fellowship: Sue Secord and Russ & Deb Vlasma
8/31: Nursery: Kristen Vlasma & Beth VanRees
Children in Worship: Stephanie Hofman & Carol Peterman
Coffee Fellowship: John & Sue Sytsema
9/7: Nursery: Sherrie Wolffis & Dale Johnson
Children in Worship: Bob & Susan Vanderlaan
Coffee Fellowship: ???
9/14: Nursery: Deb Anderson & Maelin Vlasma
Children in Worship:
Coffee Fellowship: Education & Congregational Life Committees' Kick-Off
***** We need more folks to sign up to help with Coffee Fellowship
on the clipboard downstairs by the serving window...THANKS!**



ALLEN AVENUE MISSIONARIES

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

***Rev. Jerry An – Back to God Ministries**

Angel Community Church – Muskegon

Paul & Charlotte Mpindi–Mission French Africa

Charles & Hensel Oh – Japan



ALLEN AVENUE CARE LIST

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Betty TenBrink | 4) Lois Grinwis |
| 2) Joel Stefanits | 5) Ro VerHeul |
| 3) Wilma Doctor | 6) Jim Doornbos |

***Please call or send a card to "Care List Member," Betty!**

1350 W. Hackley, Apt. 113, 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!*



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

We are rejoicing that you have come to join us in worship on this beautiful summer Sunday as we continue our series on **"Spiritual Composting"** (The Parable of the Sower, Seed & Soils).

August 24 - Luke 8:1-21 "Wealth & Worry: Choked by Thorns" (Thorny Soil)

August 31 - Matthew 13:16-30 "Fruitful Harvest: 30-60-100 Fold (Good Soil)

Our theme verse for the whole parable series will be **Matthew 13:16 – "But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear."** There are laminated verse cards by each exit for you to take home!

Pastor Mark has made a Spotify playlist for your inspiration and enjoyment:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0OsJ8hB7orBpBzBagtBNYy?si=d538ffe4a0f64884>

After worship, please join us in the lower level for a time of gathering, celebrating, and conversation as we live to B.L.E.S.S. and share life as brothers and sisters in Christ!

COUNCIL & DENOMINATION NEWS

Last year, the deacons hosted a summer food drive for Love INC. We contacted Love and they said their biggest need is in their baby pantry so we would love to help with that. **The deacons are sponsoring a baby pantry drive on Sunday, September 7, and Sunday, September 14.** The supplies received at church will be brought to Love INC for the need in our community. The following has been suggested by Love INC:

*****Diapers (especially sizes 4, 5 and 6), Baby wipes, and Formula.*****

Let's find all the deals and fill the front of the church with supplies for our neighbors in need.

AACRC Council meets on Wednesday, August 27. Elders & Deacons will both meet at 6:00pm with the full council meeting starting at 7:00pm. We are starting to work on next year's budget and the nomination process. Please pray for them.

COUNCIL & DENOMINATION NEWS

Prayer for Our Immigrant Neighbors - Over the past few months, many Christian Reformed Church leaders and members have been deeply impacted by the increased immigration enforcement activities taking place across the United States. We are asking every CRC congregation to set aside a special time of prayer for our immigrant brothers and sisters during worship on Sunday, Sept. 7. All congregations and members are also invited to join a virtual prayer vigil on Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 7:00 p.m. EST at [YouTube.com/crcna](https://www.youtube.com/crcna)

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

Save the Date: Our “fall kick-off & church picnic combo” will be held on Sunday, September 14, right after the morning worship service. More details to come...stay tuned!

Kids’ Corner Devotions: School -- Do It With All Your Might - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion, “School -- Do It With All Your Might” at www.kidscorner.net. A new school year can feel exciting and a little scary, and that’s okay! Whatever you do—learning, helping, or being kind—do your best like you’re doing it for God, and he’ll help you along the way.

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

Pastor Mark-my mom **Heidi** had a kidney biopsy on August 22 as a diagnostic for symptoms of Berger’s Disease (IgA nephropathy). It’s not currently a critical condition but may take some intervention to prevent kidney failure in the future.

Sandy Volkers and Ron Friday-continued prayers for **Ron’s nephew TJ** as his body heals from recent MRSA removal, but now he is suffering from mini strokes.

Elaine & Bob Holwerda-please continue to pray for daughter-in-law **Karyn** who continues to deal with the unknown causes for her intestinal issues. She continues to go about her busy life and never complains. Pray for her constant pain and that a diagnosis may be found.

Pastor Mark-Prayers requested for the needed planning going on for our **CADETS** upcoming year. Pray for new leaders and/or boys to join.

Peg Rop’s friend Diana is heading back to U of M for further testing due to complications after her STEM cell surgery that she had last year.

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

Praises for the final week of summer vacation! Thanks for the times we shared with family and friends. For the good things done in Jesus’ name. For the growth we have had and the gift of helping and serving others. For jobs and health. For times we have said goodbye. And for the opportunities awaiting us this coming school year. Time, such a gift...use it wisely!

Prayers for all our students, parents and staff that are turning their focus from summer activities, jobs and plans forward to school, work, or different child care situations.

Prayers for **all of our college kids** as they leave for college:

Tekalegn Vlasma - Palm Beach Atlantic Christian University

Emily Synder - Grace Christian University

Emma Peklar – Michigan State University

Dan Maat - Cornerstone University

Luke Maat - Calvin University

Congrats to recent U of M grad **Kayla Johnson**. She is working for Jam Sports in GR coordinating adult recreational sports leagues. Great job adulting, Kayla!!! 😊

Sherrie Wolffis is asking for prayers for **Baby Grace** who was born at 27 weeks. She is currently in the NICU waiting for her little heart and lungs to develop. Please surround her family and the medical team that cares for her in prayer.

Precious, the little girl from DIBS who has been battling cancer, is in FULL REMISSION!!! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Charry Snyder is asking for prayer for her sister’s little foster guy **Anthony** who was recently moved to another foster home and is now hospitalized with concerning health issues.

Keep **Jim Dornbos** in your prayers. He has decided not to pursue neck surgery at this time. He is looking forward to his 70th birthday on September 30!

Jill Schuitema-Praises for those who have volunteered to help with Children and Worship! Thank you!

Laurie Slorf- Prayers requested for my sister and her husband. They both are having serious medical needs. Jeff’s MRI wasn’t good. Looking to move the surgery date for his lungs now. Prayers the cancer hasn’t spread.