

SERMON NOTES:

Scripture: Matthew 13:33-34 & 44-46 Pew Bible Pg. #1393

Message: "All In: Yeast and Pearls"

ALLEN AVENUE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



Contact Us:

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PASTOR MARK HOFMAN
DECEMBER 28, 2025
Worship--10:00AM

Come...Now is the Time to Worship!

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Pastor Mark Hofman

GATHERED TO WORSHIP

Prelude Simon & Nora Schout
Welcome and announcements
Invitation to Quiet

Call To Worship

Leader: Christ manifested in the flesh, Christ revealed in the Spirit.

People: Praise the Lord, all you people.

Leader: Christ contemplated by the angels, Christ worshiped by the Magi.

People: Praise the Lord, all you people.

Leader: Christ exalted in glory.

People: Praise the Lord, all you people!

—based on 1 Timothy 3:16

Opening Song of Praise *Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes* LUYH 60

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God, our guiding Light,

who once used a star to lead people to Christ,

we confess our poor sense of direction.

We often become confused, easily distracted, and lose our way.

We fail to follow the signs you provide.

Forgive our waywardness, O God.

Lead us to Christ, our Savior,

so that we may follow his way to you. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Song

Imagine

LUYH 72

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 & Remembrance of 2025

Pastor Mark

(New Member: Ron Bol Professions of Faith: Asher Hofman and Maelin Vlasma
Saints in Glory: Lois Grinwis, June Walcott, and Alan Wolffis)

LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK

Song of Preparation

Blest Are They

LUYH 117

(congregation joins on stanzas 3 & 4)

Scripture Passage:

Matthew 13:33-34 & 44-46

Pew Bible Pg. #1393

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

Message

"All In: Yeast and Pearls"

Prayer of Application

*Song of Response

The Kingdom of Our God Is Like

LUYH 118:1-4

SENT OUT

Offering

General Fund

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

*Parting Song of Praise

More Precious Than Silver

Celebration Hymnal 88

*Postlude

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

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



NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



12/28: Nursery: Barb Malda & Violet & Hope
Children in Worship: Bob & Susan Vanderlaan & Denise Kanaar
Coffee Fellowship: Russ & Deb Vlasma, Sue Secord
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

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
- 2) Joel Stefanits
- 3) **Wilma Doctor**
- 4) Ro VerHeul
- 5) Jim Doornbos

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

*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 season and always!*



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

We are so thankful you are here to worship! After the service, join us downstairs for a time of fellowship with the family of God here at Allen Avenue!

COUNCIL & DENOMINATION NEWS

Council notes from December 14:

1. The Council is grateful for Elder Scott Schuitema, Elder Judy Vaandering, and Deacon Charry Snyder, who are now completing their three-year terms of service. You have blessed our church!
2. Elder Bob Botting, Elder Bob Holwerda, Deacon Karen Alphenaar, and Deacon Dale Johnson were welcomed to the Council at our potluck fellowship meal and meeting. These new members will be installed on January 4.
3. Officers were elected for 2026: President- Jack DeJonge, Vice President- Bob Holwerda, Clerk- Barb Malda, Assistant Clerk- Bob Botting, Treasurer- Amber Johnson, Assistant Treasurer- Karen Alphenaar.
4. Assignments were made for district leadership and council representation on each committee.
5. Saturday, January 10, from 9:00-11:00 am was selected for our annual Goal-Setting Breakfast Workshop for all Council and committee members.
6. The Council will meet again on January 28.

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

Please remember to **check your mailboxes downstairs during the Christmas season** as many will be filled with Christmas cards & greetings you won't want to miss 😊.

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.

Men's Bible Study will start up again in the new year 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

Warmest congrats to **Axel & Retha Johnson** as they will celebrate their **75th Wedding Anniversary** on Tuesday, December 30! Your church family thanks God for His faithfulness to you all these years and the godly example you are to us as you honor those vows you made to one another $\frac{3}{4}$ of a century ago!

Charry Snyder had foot surgery on Thursday, December 11. Many prayers needed for the surgery to be a success and for pain control and healing.

Continue to pray for **Ron Vlasma** as his cancer journey continues...pray for strength to endure the treatments, peace, encouragement, and fortitude.

Randy & Becki Fisher's great niece Tatiana and her husband Cobey Wadland are in Ann Arbor for the month of January after having the very delicate surgery on their unborn daughter who has spina bifida. Both Tati & baby are doing quite well, and we continue to lift them up in prayer and that God will supply all their needs at this very trying time.

ANNOUCEMENTS FROM THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Kids' Corner Devotions: New Year. New You. - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "New Year. New You." at www.kidscorner.net. Start the new year with more than just fresh goals—let God's Spirit make you new from the inside out! His gifts of love, joy, peace, kindness, and more will help you shine like Jesus wherever you go. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's The Bible in One Year Plan.

Thank You for Giving! - Thank you for sharing God's love with people experiencing need in the World Renew offering this season. Your gift is providing help and hope for families who are facing poverty, disaster, and crisis today. Do you want to give to help people as we enter the New Year? You can go to worldrenew.net/gifts Thank you for renewing hope with us!

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - As one year ends and another begins, pause for a time of taking spiritual inventory with your family, friends, or on your own. Ask questions like these: Where did we see God this year? Where did we resist growth? Where do we feel God is calling us next? Consider writing a prayer of release and a prayer of commitment to guide your transition into the new year.

Position Opening: Director of Justice and Peace - The Director of Justice and Peace position at World Renew is now live. This is a full-time, leadership role open to candidates in Canada and the United States. The director will provide vision and strategic leadership for World Renew's Justice and Peace Program, guiding staff, projects, partnerships, resource development, and external engagement. This position will strengthen World Renew's capacity in Justice and Peace initiatives, ensuring programming is rooted in biblical principles and aligned with our global strategy. The director will collaborate across teams to deliver transformational, community-driven projects, advocate for systemic change, and engage with external partners to amplify our impact worldwide. Learn more and apply at worldrenew.net/careers by January 2.

Journey With Us in 2026 - Planning your 2026 travel? Looking for a trip with a purpose? Journey with us to see the transformative work of World Renew, while experiencing God in another country and growing in your faith. Consider Guatemala, Tanzania, Cambodia, or Nicaragua! To learn more, please visit: <https://worldrenew.net/travel>