

## SERMON NOTES:

Scripture: **Proverbs 9:1-18** (Pew Bible pg. #914)

Message: "Feast or Death"



# **ALLEN AVENUE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**



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## **Contact Us:**

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**Pastor Mark Hofman**

**January 25, 2026**

**Worship-10:00am**



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

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Pastor Mark Hofman

## GATHERED TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and announcements

Invitation to Quiet

Call To Worship

Leader: As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.

**People: My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?**

Leader: By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me— a prayer to the God of my life.

**People: Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior & my God.**

—from Psalm 42

*Opening Songs of Praise	<i>As the Deer</i>	<i>LUYH 503</i>
	<i>He Knows My Name</i>	<i>LUYH 339</i>

\*God's Greeting

\*We Greet One Another

## RENEWED BY HIS GRACE

Call to Confession:	<i>Litany: The Ten Commandments (3)</i>	<i>LUYH 722</i>
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Prayer of Confession: (from the *Worship Sourcebook*)

**Gracious God, you have given us the law of Moses and the teachings of Jesus to direct us in the way of life. You offer us your Holy Spirit so that we can be born to new life as your children. Yet, O God, we confess that the ways of death have a strong attraction and that we often succumb to their lure. Give us the vision and courage to choose and nurture life, that we may receive your blessing. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon: from Romans 3:21-31

Pew Bible Pg. #1604

Song:	<i>How Shall the Young Direct Their Way</i>	<i>LUYH 720 vs. 1-2 &amp; 4</i>
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Children's Message

Charry Snyder

Children's Blessing (in unison):

**Jesus is Lord of all.  
Love him with all your heart,  
all your strength,  
and all your mind.  
Praise and worship him alone.**

Prayers of the People

Pastor Mark Hofman

## LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK

*Song:	<i>O God, You Are My God</i>	<i>LUYH 743</i>
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Scripture Passage: Proverbs 9:1-18	(Pew Bible pg. #914)
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Leader: "This is the Word of the Lord." **People: "Thanks be to God."**

Message:	<i>Feast or Death</i>
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Prayer of Application

*Song of Response	<i>Be Thou My Vision</i>	<i>LUYH 859 vs. 1-3</i>
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## WE ARE SENT OUT

Offering: General Fund

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

\*God's Parting Blessing

*Parting Song of Praise	<i>Be Thou My Vision</i>	<i>LUYH 859 vs. 4</i>
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\*Postlude

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

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



## NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



1/25: Nursery: Amber Johnson & Becki Fisher  
Children in Worship: Deb Anderson & Carol Peterman  
Coffee Fellowship: Judy, Eric, & Stacy Vaandering  
2/1: Nursery: Susan Vanderlaan & Addie Maat  
Sunday School/Catechism  
Coffee Fellowship: Congregational Life Hot Chocolate Bar  
2/8: Nursery: Jasmine Snyder & Karen Alphenaar  
Children in Worship: Beth VanRees & Barb Malda  
Coffee Fellowship: Congregational Life Hot Chocolate Bar  
2/15: Nursery: Toni Schuitema & Renee Vlasma  
Sunday School/Catechism  
Coffee Fellowship: Jim & Barb Malda

## 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) Ro VerHeul   |
| 2) <b>Joel Stefanits</b> | 5) Jim Doornbos |
| 3) Wilma Doctor          |                 |

\*Please call or send a card to Care List Member, Joel!  
OPTALIS - 1061 W. Hackley Ave., Muskegon, MI 49441

*Dear Care List Members, This season is not wasted. Quiet moments can be powerful times for reflection, creativity, and connection with God and others in new ways. Hope is still alive. Even in stillness, life can surprise you with joy, beauty, and blessings. Remember today & always, you are loved!*

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

We are so blessed to have you worshiping with us this snowy Sabbath Sunday! In our 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 9:1-18 "Feast or Death." Please join us downstairs after the service for a time of fellowship!

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

- ♥ 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 25 through February 1, **there will be a two-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 about how you are a vital part of Allen Avenue's mission.

**Next Sunday, February 1, is Cadet Sunday.** Heartfelt thanks to our counselors who so willingly give of themselves to the boys that God has brought into our Cadet program. May they grow in grace into the men God is calling them to be.

**Valentine bags will be available for our five college students** beginning Sunday, 1/25 through Sunday, 2/8 in the basement of church. Please feel free to fill with goodies and cards, so we can show our love and support. Our current college students are:

- ♥ **Emma Peklar** is in her 4th year at Michigan State University majoring in Human Development & Family Studies with a minor in Women's Study.
- ♥ **Yeabsira Vlasma** is in his final year at Grand Valley State University and will be graduating this spring with his bachelor's degree in finance.
- ♥ **Emily Snyder** is in her junior year at Grace Christian University studying Human Services.
- ♥ **Danny Maat** is in his sophomore year at Cornerstone University and is pre-seminary in the Ministries Program.
- ♥ **Luke Maat** is in his freshman year at Calvin University & joined ROTC.

## COUNCIL & DENOMINATION NEWS

**Thank you, Allen Ave for your giving in 2025!** We collected \$287,528 in our general fund offerings, exceeding our plan by \$22,528. As a result, we were able to cover some additional projects related to security, technology and church maintenance. We were within \$275 of our total expenses of \$295,005. Thank you for your faithfulness, Allen Ave! --Your AACRC Deacon Team

**2025 Giving Statements have been sent.** If you have any questions, please see Amber Johnson.

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

**Men's Bible Study** will be held on Monday, January 26, at 6:15pm. Come join us as we continue our study of Hebrews. Questions...see Brian Schuitema.

**Carol's House** (i.e. Mike Fongers' group home) is having a bake sale fundraiser on **Monday, January 26, from 3-7PM @ Northway Lanes** bowling alley. Any baked good items are requested - if able to list allergic ingredients or suggested price, it would be much appreciated. Call Carol Dalson (231-740-5412) with questions or volunteering interest. Thanks for your considering, Allen Avenue!

**Calling all ladies!** Has cold weather got you down? Need to get out of the house? Join us Wednesday, January 28, at 10:00 AM for a fabulous morning of crafting. Supplies will be provided for FREE! There will also be refreshments. Come as you are and bring a friend. Check out the craft at the refreshment counter in the lower level and be sure to sign up by January 25. Questions? Contact Kelly Dauser or Lauri Slorf.

**"Hearts on Fire" Women's Bible Study** will meet on Thursday, February 5, from 1:30-3:00pm. Prepare Session Five in our personal Bible study on pg. 103-137.

**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: February 2 & 9, March 2 & 9, April 13, and May 4 & 11.

There is a **large chalkboard in the basement** that isn't being used and hasn't been used for a while. It needs a new home. 😊 If you are interested in relocating this chalkboard, please see Jill Schuitema or Sue Sytsema before February 1.

**CONNECT Group started back up on Sunday, January 18.** We are joining Pastor Mark's classes for the next two weeks and having a soft rejoining after that. Interested in what CONNECT is? Contact Charry Snyder or Denise Koetje!

## PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

**Ron Bol** is rehabbing for the next three weeks at Medilodge- Rm. #7, 900 S. Beacon Blvd. Grand Haven, MI 49417. Birthday cards (1/17) or cards of encouragement would brighten his days until he can return home once again.

Continue to pray for **Tatiana & Baby Bobbi Marlene** that they both continue to heal after the spina bifida surgery at U of M and that Tati's contractions will stop for a few more weeks, so baby will be stronger. --**Randy & Becki Fisher**

Continue to lift up **Ron Vlasma** (& Kristen, Joe, Matt) with Ron's cancer.

**Steve Rinks, Melisa Vlasma's dad**, has been diagnosed with cancer in multiple areas of his body. The family covets your prayers as his medical team do additional testing and meet with doctors at U of M in regard to the course of treatment as they move forward.

**Roger and Laurie Slorf** ask for prayers for a former member **Paul Matz**, son of Bob and Sandy, who has been diagnosed w/ an aggressive form of colon cancer.

**Sherrie & Jack Wolffis** have moved to Jenison to be closer to their children & grandchildren. We wish them blessings in their new home and community and thank them for their many years of selfless giving and ministry to AACRC. Their new address is: 8735 24<sup>th</sup> Ave., Jenison, MI 49428. Please come back to visit! 😊

**Ron Friday** had an echocardiogram/cardio version on Wednesday. Continue prays of healing for Ron and his brother, **Tom**, who had back surgery last week.

Thankful to have **Charry Synder** in church again! Prayers for **her dad Orven** who was diagnosed with prostate cancer and a spot on his pelvis this week.

**Denise Koetje** is thankful for CONNECT group and asks for prayers for her dad's ongoing back issues.

**John and Carol Schuitema** are thankful for healing after John had pneumonia.

**Rusty Palmer's mom** had surgery on Tuesday...may God daily hold her close.