

SERMON NOTES:

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:26 – 2:5 Pew Bible Page #1624

Message: *The Cross in the Center*

**ALLEN AVENUE
CHRISTIAN
REFORMED CHURCH**



Contact Us:

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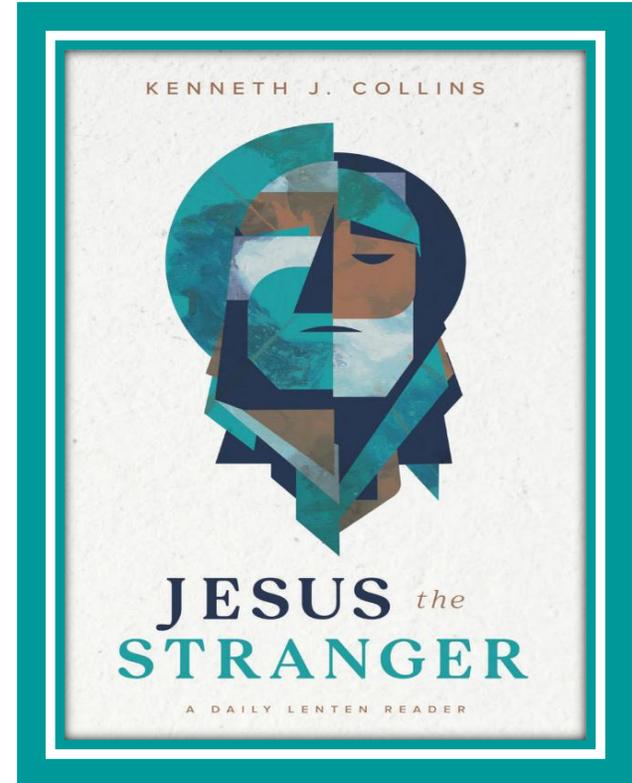


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Pastor Bruce Ballast
Third Sunday in Lent
March 8, 2026--10:00am

Come...Now is the Time to Worship!

Third Sunday in Lent--March 8, 2026
Pastor Bruce Ballast

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Invitation to Quiet

Call to Worship

Leader: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
the author and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy set before him endured the cross,
scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of God.

People: Let us consider him who endured such opposition from sinful people, so that we will not grow weary and lose heart.

—from Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV

*Opening Hymn of Praise *Oh, to See the Dawn* LUYH 177

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

Children's Message Deb Vlasma

Children's Blessing

***The Lord loves you.
He promises to go with you.
Praise him for being so good.
May he bless you as you worship him.***

Prayers of the People Peg Rop (video)

GOD SPEAKS TO US

*Song of Preparation *How Deep the Father's Love For Us*

Scripture Passage 1 Corinthians 1 :26 – 2 :5 Pew Bible Page #1624

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

Message *The Cross in the Center*

Prayer of Application

*Song of Response *Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me*

WE ARE SENT OUT

Our Offerings General Fund & Muskegon Christian School

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

*God's Parting Blessing

*Parting Song of Praise *Worthy is Christ* LUYH 605

*Postlude



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

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



NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



3/8: Nursery: Beth VanRees & Mary Maat
Children in Worship: Amber Johnson & Kristen Vlasma
Coffee Fellowship: Axel Johnson's Birthday Celebration!
3/15: Nursery: Nancy Rop & Aethan Hofman
Sunday School/**No** Catechism
Coffee Fellowship: Randy & Becki Fisher
3/22: Nursery: Becky Schout & Melisa Vlasma
Children in Worship: Judy Vaandering & Deb Anderson
Coffee Fellowship: ?????
3/29: Nursery: Amber Johnson & Maelin Vlasma
Sunday School/Catechism
Coffee Fellowship: Ron Friday & Sandy Volkers

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 *Please call or send a card
- 2) Ro VerHeul to Care List Member, Joel!
- 3) **Joel Stefanits** OPTALIS – 1061 W. Hackley Ave.
- 4) Wilma Doctor 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, Members & Guest Pastor Bruce Ballast!



We are so blessed to have you worshipping with us on this third Sunday of Lent at Allen Avenue. Pastor Mark and Stephanie are attending a conference in Florida, so we welcome Pastor Bruce Ballast to our pulpit. Bruce has pastored three churches in 40 years of active ministry--two in Michigan and one in California. He now serves on the faculty of Christian Leaders Institute, an online training ministry. Bruce is married, has three children and eleven grandchildren. Please join us downstairs after the service for a time of reconnecting with the family of God here at AACRC as we enjoy Axel Johnson's 98th birthday (March 9) with a cake reception provided by his family! Celebrating you today, Axel, and the gift you are to everyone who knows and loves you...your family, our congregation, & your heavenly Father! 😊

COUNCIL & DENOMINATION NEWS

The special offering for today, Sunday, March 8, is for **Muskegon Christian School**. Muskegon Christian School exists to equip minds and hearts to Love, Learn, and Lead for Christ. Your gift impacts faith integration through Spanish Immersion and Outdoor Education.

February Council Meeting Notes

1. The Council feels grateful and blessed for all the support given by our church family as we hosted Classis Muskegon at our location.
2. A Maundy Thursday worship service is being planned for Holy Week.
3. The Congregational Life committee will provide a fellowship breakfast prior to our Easter worship service.
4. Angel Church will again partner with us to provide King's Kids VBS this summer. We will teach from the book of Acts using the theme "Spirit Power."
5. At her request, the membership of Courtney Vanderlaan has been lapsed, since she is currently an active member at Grace Church in Ann Arbor, a Reformed congregation that does not operate under a transfer of membership system. God bless you in your service for the Kingdom at Grace Church, Courtney!
6. The Council will meet again on March 25.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

CONNECT small group has started up again. We will meet every other week in the lounge off the kitchen from 11:30-12:30...see you on 3/15 & 3/29.

ADVANCE NOTICE: The GEMS will be holding their annual BAKE SALE after church on Sunday, March 22. Please put this on your calendars. You don't want to miss out on some yummy baked goods! GEMS greatly appreciate you!

It's Allen Avenue's turn to assist the residents of Christian Care with their worship and Lord's Supper on Wednesday, March 19, at 1:00pm. If you are able to serve with Pastor Mark, please talk to him today.

Looking for AACRC's 50th Anniversary pamphlet...was last seen in the library. If you know its whereabouts, please talk to Dave Bishop so he can return it to the rightful owner!

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: April 13, and May 4 & 11.

Ladies, You are Invited to Another Craft Lab Event! Sign up to paint spring whimsical tulips on canvas! This is a beginner painting with step-by-step instructions. Join us April 4 in the lower level of church at 10:00am. Brushes, canvas, paints and refreshments will be provided. Cost is \$5.00 per person to cover expenses. Pay when you arrive. Sign up by March 29 or call Laurie Slorf 736-9240. Invite a friend!

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

"I just wanted to extend a heartfelt thank you to my church family. I realize how blessed I am to be receiving so many cards, words of wisdom, and of course all kinds of treats. I was overwhelmed with gratitude and joy reading all the kind messages; it's comforting to know that so many people care about me and pray for me. I'm in my last semester at Grand Valley, and one of the most valuable things I've learned is how valuable family is. I am grateful to be surrounded by an amazing congregation that I truly consider my family. Your love and support mean the world to me. Thank you again!" All the best, **Yeabsira Vlasma**

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

A huge thank you to all those who gave of their time and talents in hosting the Muskegon Classis meeting. Kudos to Marcia Breuker, Laurie DeJonge, Barb Malda, Nancy Rop, Marijean Smith, Sue Sytsema and Loie VandenBosch. A thank you as well to Steve Rop for running sound and Jack DeJonge who pulled double duty as a delegate and on projection. --**Kelly Dauser**

Continued prayers for my father Steve Brinks as he has had some pretty rough days lately...so much pain and further complicated health concerns. We are so appreciative of the prayers being offered. -**Melisa Vlasma**

On Tuesday, February 17, the Lord called **Jim Doornbos** home. The funeral will be held on Saturday, March 14, at 1:00pm at the Sytsema Chapel on Apple Ave. followed by a luncheon back here at the church at 2:00pm.

We express our heartfelt sympathy to **Dave & Beth VanRees** with the home-going of Beth's step-mom **Ione Hoekenga** on March 1. May the Holy Spirit bring comfort to their whole extended family.

Please pray for **Jim Malda** to be healed from his intestinal infection. Also, we give thanks that his brother **Bob** has much relief from pain after his back surgery and is now able to walk with a walker at Mary Free Bed Rehab Hospital.

Mike Fongers continues to battle urinary tract infections and asks for prayers.

We give thanks to God for healing **Pastor Mark & Mary Kortman** and so many others from our congregation that have been suffering health-wise this winter.

Continue to lift **Charry Snyder** up in prayer for healing and nerve pain relief and that God will give her patience as He knits her back together after this third foot surgery.

Patti Steigenga (former member) has finished up her chemo treatments which resulted in answered prayer that the tumor has shrunk. She will have surgery on Monday, March 9, to remove it.

Prayers for traveling mercies and restful vacations as many of **our church family** will be gone the month of March seeking out the sun and warmer climates!