

SERMON NOTES:

Scripture: Genesis 16:1-16 & 21:8-21 Pew Bible Page #19

Message: « The God Who Hears, Sees, and Waters »



Contact Us:

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



(231) 722-6411



www.allenavechurch.org

pastor@allenavechurch.org



susan.vanderlaan@allenavechurch.org

**ALLEN AVENUE
CHRISTIAN
REFORMED CHURCH**



Pastor Mark Hofman
May 3, 2026
Worship 10:00am

Come...Now is the Time to Worship!

May 3, 2026
Pastor Mark Hofman

We Gather to Worship

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Invitation to Quiet

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 36:7-9)

Leader: How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!

All: People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

Leader: They feast on the abundance of your house;

All: you give them drink from your river of delights.

Leader: For with you is the fountain of life;

All: in your light we see light.

*Opening Hymn of Praise *Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord* LUYH 537

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

Renewed in God's Grace

Call to Confession *As the Deer* LUYH 503

Responsive Prayer of Confession

Leader: Lord of Life, today we are glad for our union with you; tomorrow we will grumble, burdened by your command to care for one another. We want to be autonomous and untethered, but you call us to love as you have loved us. Forgive our selfishness and move our hearts to live in truth and serve in grace.

All: Today we sing songs of your victory; tomorrow we will quiet our voices, not wanting to appear foolish and naïve. You told us to go and make disciples of all nations, but we share our faith timidly. Our fear causes us to hold back when we could offer the good news of your kingdom. Forgive our fear and move our mouths to sing your praise.

Leader: Lamb upon the throne, forgive us, and help us.

All: May we seek first your kingdom. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

John 7:37-39

Pew Bible Page #1522

Song of Dedication *You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore* LUYH 116 vs. 1-3

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.

Worship the Lord with praise and thanksgiving.

Prayers of the People

Pastor Mark

God Speaks To Us

*Song of Preparation *Lord, We Hear Your Word with Gladness* LUYH 766

Scripture Passage: **Genesis 16:1-16 & 21:8-21** Pew Bible Page #19

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

Message: **"The God Who Sees, Hears, and Waters"**

Personal Testimony

Bob Holwerda

*Song of Response *When Peace Like a River* LUYH 451:1-3

We Are Sent Out

Our 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 *When Peace Like a River* LUYH 451:4

*Postlude

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

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



NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



5/3: Nursery: Amber Johnson & Serenity Alphenaar
Children in Worship: Denise Kanaar, Bob & Susan VDL
Coffee Fellowship: Brian & Jill Schuitema
5/10: Nursery: Susan Vanderlaan
Sunday School/Catechism
Coffee Fellowship: Theresa Mason, Bob & Susan VDL
5/17: Nursery: Toni Schuitema & Becky Schout
Children in Worship: Amber Johnson & Beth VanRees
Coffee Fellowship: Kristen Vlasma & Kelly Dauser
5/24: Nursery: Nancy Rop & Tayla Vlasma
Children in Worship: Laurie DeJonge & Deb Anderson
Coffee Fellowship: ???



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) Wilma Doctor *Please call or send a card
- 2) **Ro VerHeul** to Care List Member, Ro!
- 3) Joel Stefanits 1249 Lakeshore Dr., Apt. 339
Muskegon, MI 49441

Heavenly Father, thank you for your great care for our loved ones on the care list. Today, we come to you and ask you to shine Your light into the lives of these dear people. Reveal Yourself as their Protector, Provider, & King. You overcame sin and death on the cross, and we pray that your victory will surround our loved ones and offer them hope and peace and Your love! Amen!



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

We are so blessed to have you worshiping the King of Kings and Lord of Lords with us! During Eastertide at Allen Avenue, we have been studying appearances (theophanies) of God in Genesis. This week Pastor Mark will be taking us into the wilderness with Hagar as she runs away from Sarai only to be told by "El Roi" that she

will bear a son. In faith she gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me, for now I have been seen the One who sees me!" Stick around after the service to gather and fellowship with one another and get caught up one another's week and where you have seen God and He has seen you!

COUNCIL & DENOMINATION NEWS

First quarter giving at Allen Ave was \$77,320 vs our budget of \$67,500. We also received an estate gift from Carol Dirkse. Thank you for your faithful support. We are so grateful for these gifts, so we can continue to B.L.E.S.S.!

–AACRC Deacons

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - This week marks Teacher Appreciation Week in the United States and Canada. One of the most significant glimpses of Jesus' teaching that we have in the Bible can be found in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5–7). This week spend some time reading and reflecting on this important message as you sit under the teaching of Jesus. Then think of people in your life who have taught you about Jesus. Send them a quick note of thanks for helping you to learn about God.

Kids' Corner Devotions: Why Compare When You're Already You? - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Why Compare When You're Already You?" at www.kidscorner.net. God made every kid one-of-a-kind, and that's something to celebrate! When we remember that God loves us just as we are, we can use our special gifts to share His love with others. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Bible Story coloring pages available on the KC activities page.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES



“**Hearts on Fire**” Ladies Bible Study will have our final luncheon to celebrate our year of study and all God's goodness to us on **Thursday, May 14, at 12noon** at Love Café, 557 W Western Ave, Muskegon, MI 49440. Please RSVP to Susan Vanderlaan by Sunday, May 10, so that reservations can be made. If any ladies of the church would like to join us and check out the Love Café, you are warmly welcomed...just let Susan know!

Directory Update: **Al Calderon** has a new phone number: **231.428.5512**. Please update your new directory accordingly, so you can stay in touch!

ALLEN AVENUE MISSION TRIP--We are planning a mission trip through Disaster Response Services (DRS) to Madison County, NC for the week of September 28, 2026. We currently have about 8 members from Allen Ave. planning to attend. Here are a few details of the trip:

Disaster

Hurricane Helene, September 2024

Travel

About 12 hours by car

Volunteer Work Projects

Work projects will be largely focused on homes that have suffered damage from Hurricane Helene. Potential projects may include debris removal, drywall, framing, painting, flooring, cabinetry, siding, building ramps, weatherization, etc.

Housing

Housing is provided for volunteer work teams at one of two locations depending on availability and work assignments— First Baptist Church Weaverville in Weaverville, NC, or the Hot Springs Volunteer Cabin near Hot Springs, NC.

Skill set

No special skills are needed. Just the physical ability to help with construction or remodeling. Let me know if you have questions or are interested in joining us.

Contact: Steve Rop at rop.steven@gmail.com or (231) 736-8969.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Bible Study will meet Monday, May 4, at 6:15pm. Study Lesson 19.

There is a clipboard on a bulletin board in the basement on which you can sign up for your DISCOUNTED **UNITY CHRISTIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL TICKETS**. Fliers were put in each church mailbox giving you information on the different artists like Crowder, Josh Wilson, Tenth Avenue North, and for King & Country who are coming to Heritage Landing August 5 - 8. If you have never gone to this event, please consider attending this summer. Tickets are only \$50.00 for a 1-day pass and only \$80.00 for a 3-day pass. If you have any questions, please see Jill.

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

“Thank you all so much for the beautiful baby book shower. It truly means so much to us, and we feel incredibly blessed to have such a loving and supportive church family. We look forward to reading each and every one of those books to Kacey and creating special memories together. Thank you again for your kindness and generosity!” **With love, Jasmine, Travis and Kacey Snyder**

Warmest congrats to **John & Mary Kortman** with the safe arrival of their newest granddaughter **Tessa Joy** on Thursday, April 30! Thank you, Jesus!

As the family of God at Allen Avenue, we celebrate with **Yeabsira Vlasma** with his graduation from GVSU on Saturday! He's already employed at an agency he interned at this past year and is well on his way to “adulting!!!” Warmest congrats, Yeabsira...we are so proud & excited to see where God takes you!

Thank you to **Dale Johnson and Bob Vanderlaan** for stripping and cleaning the basement tile floors. They are looking great! Also, to **Pastor Mark** for “manning” the floor scrubber! All three men reported they had a great time together!

Ron Vlasma will get the results of his CT scan on Tuesday. We're praying, Ron!!!

Melisa Vlasma's dad Steve Rinks gained his eternal reward on Friday, April 24. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Melisa, Cam, Yeabsira, and Tekalegn in this great loss. May God hold them so close in the days ahead and remind them of the great promise in Scripture that “to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.” Our love to you!

Beth VanRees is recovering from successful surgery to remove kidney stones.