

**SERMON NOTES:**

**Scripture: Matthew 28 :19-20, Luke 11:27-54**

**Message: Teaching the Kingdom**



**Contact Us:**

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



(231) 722-6411



[www.allenavechurch.org](http://www.allenavechurch.org)



[aacrcsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:aacrcsecretary@gmail.com)

[pastor@allenavechurch.org](mailto:pastor@allenavechurch.org)



**ALLEN AVENUE CHRISTIAN  
REFORMED CHURCH**



THE LORD IS NEAR TO THE  
BROKENHEARTED AND SAVES THE  
CRUSHED IN SPIRIT

PSALM 34:18

**PASTOR MARK HOFMAN  
WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM  
MAY 7, 2023**



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

*Believe. Love. Evangelize.*

*Support Christian Education. Serve.*



## NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

- 05/07: Nursery: Sue Sytsema & Lily  
Coffee Fellowship: Jack & Sherrie Wolffis
- 05/14: Nursery: Charry Snyder & Beth VanRees  
Coffee Fellowship: Scott & Toni Schuitema
- 05/21: Nursery: Carol Peterman & Becki Fisher  
Coffee Fellowship: John & Carol Schuitema
- 05/28: Nursery: Sherrie Wolffis & Deb Anderson  
Coffee Fellowship: Russ & Deb Vlasma



## ALLEN AVENUE MISSIONARIES

Stephan and Alicia – Kenya  
Rev. Jerry – Back to God Ministries  
Angel Community Church – Muskegon  
Zuni Christian School – Zuni, New Mexico  
Stan & Bessie – Philippines  
Eric and Judith – Western Asia  
Paul & Charlotte – Mission French Africa



## ALLEN AVENUE CARE LIST

Joann Deitz    Wilma Doctor    Jim Doornbos

Vicky Fisher    Lois Grinwis    Pearl Kitchen

Joel Stefanits    Betty TenBrink    Ro Verheul

June Walcott                      **-We love and pray for all  
the families on our care list and for their caregivers  
who so lovingly serve and help them...Bless them!**

## WELCOME TO ALLEN AVENUE CRC

**A Warm Welcome to Our Visitors, Guests, Members!** We are so glad you have come to join us in worshipping our Risen Savior today! If you are visiting, please fill out the Welcome card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate as you leave the sanctuary. **Join us in the Fellowship Hall in the lower level for refreshments after the worship service.**

## COUNCIL NEWS

**The deacons are thankful** for April General Fund offerings of \$24,972 and \$180.25 for World Renew. God is good!

**The special offering for next Sunday, Mother's Day, May 14, is for Bethany Christian Services.** Family changes everything. At Bethany Christian Services, we believe every child deserves to be safe, loved, and connected through family. Bethany is a global nonprofit that supports children and families with world-class social services, all designed to help families thrive.

**Celebrate Women** - Next week, we celebrate the women in our communities of faith near and far. Women who are supported physically, mentally, and spiritually are better equipped to support their own families and communities. On Mother's Day, please consider giving a gift to celebrate a special woman in your life through World Renew. Your gift will honor your loved one – and support other women to flourish fully as well, as God intends for them. For more information or to give online, go to [worldrenew.net/womenofhope](http://worldrenew.net/womenofhope) .

**The Banner's Counting On You!** - Please support the award-winning, journalistic ministry of the CRC by donating online today. \$500,000 is needed every year to keep The Banner going. The more money we can raise, the less we need to draw on ministry shares, releasing those funds for other ministries in the CRCNA. Give now at: [TheBanner.org/Give](http://TheBanner.org/Give)

**We give thanks and pray for those who are serving on our church council:** Brian Schuitema, Bob Vanderlaan, Sherrie Wolffis, Stan Rop, Gabe Vlasma, Kelly Dauser, Karen Alphenaar, Jean Botting, Judy Vaandering, Scott Schuitema, Dave Miedema, Charry Snyder, and Pastor Mark Hofman. May the Lord be with them as they minister and may there be unity in Christ in the decisions they make. Give them the strength and shields to endure the things that come at them, and may the wisdom and love of God be present so that our church may grow together in carrying out our vision to **B.L.E.S.S.**

## **CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES**

**Ladies of Allen Ave, you are invited!** We are planning on a day trip to the Art Barn in Fennville on Wednesday, May 10. So far, we have four signed up. One car is leaving at 9:00 am from church, and Kelly Dauser is leaving at noon from 5/3rd Bank on Apple Ave. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Laurie Slorf. It is a super fun place to do ceramics, glass tiles, or glass fusion, etc. in an old barn. If weekends work better for you, let us know that, too. In June, we will be having some weekend dates scheduled.

**Discussion Time:** Interested in going deeper in your faith? Have questions you want to discuss with other believers? Come join us on Sunday, May 21 after church for a discussion time in the lounge (room next to the kitchen). These are the questions we are hoping to converse around:

1. What areas of faith do you struggle with?
2. Are you ready to give a defense for your faith?
3. Do you have any doubts about your faith?
4. Are you prepared to tackle contradictions in the Bible?
5. Do you know how to address the issue of suffering under a good God?

**Coffee Time Outreach:** Would you like to be part of a new Muskegon Classis outreach at Muskegon Community College? It's simple, you just need to pour coffee and smile :). Tuesday and Thursdays 9am-2pm. Contact Brian Schuitema if you plan to go!

**Mission Trip?** Stan and Steve Rop are putting together another mission trip through DRS (Disaster Response Services). We are looking to go on this trip somewhere in the timeframe of August - October. Possible sites include Madisonville, KY, Rollingfork, MS and Detroit, MI. Skills utilized on the trip include painting, drywall, simple construction, electrical, plumbing, demolition and of course cooking. Don't have any of these skills? We will gladly train you! If interested, talk to Stan or Steve.  
P.S. - DRS usually covers the cost of lodging at the site.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual West Michigan Prayer Walk** – Last Year, 65 churches and ministries walked and prayed for their neighborhoods. This year, we're calling on ALL West Michigan ministries, churches, and Christians to take prayer to the streets on Saturday, May 13, from 1-3 pm. Let's put thousands of Christians in the streets of Muskegon praying! Questions? Contact HOPELIGHTHOUSE@COMCAST.NET

## **CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES**

**Muskegon Rescue Mission's ForeShore Adventure Run is back for year EIGHT.** The lakeshore's premiere 5k adventure run returns to Pere Marquette Beach on May 20, 2023, with new obstacles but the same mission: helping people to overcome life's obstacles. Each registered participant receives a short-sleeved, moisture-wicking t-shirt. Your ticket purchase directly feeds the hungry and shelters the homeless; 100% of the proceeds support Muskegon Rescue Mission's food pantry and homeless shelters. Will you join us in helping our neighbors? For more information, go to MRM's website or email Melissa mboughner@muskegonmission.org

**Pray for Synod 2023** - Join believers across the denomination for 40 days of prayer in preparation for Synod 2023. Beginning on April 30 and concluding on June 8, 2023, each day readers will receive a Bible text, a prayer, and some suggested questions for reflection or conversation. All of the prayers are intended to reflect the theme of Synod 2023: Longing to be Like Christ, which is based on Philippians 2:1-11, summarized by verse 5: "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus." Learn more and sign up at [www.crcna.org/longing-to-be-like-christ](http://www.crcna.org/longing-to-be-like-christ)

**Did you know that Allen Avenue CRC has a FREE Church Assistance Program (CAP) with Pine Rest?** Contact Pine Rest COUNSELING SERVICES by calling **800-442-0809 and PRESS 1** to access their 24-hour Hotline and to schedule appointments. Please remember that the key to FREE services is when you make your call, please say, "I have a CAP with Allen Avenue CRC." (Otherwise, you will receive a bill in the mail.) Our CAP Benefits Include:

- 3 sessions of free, confidential counseling per episode of care
- Psychiatric Urgent Care Center services for ages 18+
- 24/7 hotline for crisis calls
- Free 30-minute legal consultation
- Free 30-minute financial consultation
- Free elder care consultation
- Personal Advantage online library access
- All benefits are available to the congregation member and EVERY person in their household.





## PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

-Pray for Our Care List Member of the week – **June Walcott**

-Allen Avenue Missionaries of the week – **Paul & Charlotte Mpindi - MWA**

**-We pray for our school children of all ages-** Simon, Nora, Yeabsira, Tekalegn, Maelin, Tayla, Emily, Devin, Travis, Katelyn, Molly, Kayla, Taylor, Danny, Luke, Adele, Joe, Matthew, Carlie, Daniel, Serenity, Lily, Riley, Jessica, Pao, Asher, August, and Aethan.

- **“Dear Freezer Ministry Ladies,** Thank you ever so much for the delicious food you brought to us on Friday. It was so good to see Laurie DeJonge. We had a nice visit, and we are so blessed!”

**In Christ’s love, Joann Deitz, Lois Grinwis, and Betty TenBrink**

**-We thank God for the beautiful service and celebration this past Sunday as we celebrated GEMS Sunday.** Such a blessing to hear the effect GEMS had on Emily Snyder and how she has grown in love with Jesus! We pray for each girl and their families, each leader and the time given to serve God in this way! Blessings and love to Jill Schuitema, Amber Johnson, Renee’ Vlasma, Charry Snyder, Laurie Slorf, Kelly Dauser, and Emily Snyder. Prayers for someone to be led to serve in a craft capacity next season.

**-“PRAISE GOD FOR ANSWERED PRAYER! THIS IS HUGE!** Six men made decisions for Christ last week during Chapel! Their names are **Robert, Patrick, Nathan, Daniel, Dannie, and James.** Pray for God’s grace for these men as the Holy Spirit does His work, transforming them in the likeness of Christ!”

**- Matt Kooi, Discipleship Director of The Muskegon Rescue Mission**

## PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

**- Praises that Maddox is doing so well that he did not need to have the planned heart surgery!** In fact, Steve Rop said that both Maddox and Carver (great nephews of Steve and Nancy Rop) are doing so well that they can be taken off the prayer list! PRAISE GOD for answers and healing to these twins. Thanks for being so faithful by serving in prayer for this family since their premature births, Allen Avenue!

**-We celebrate with Pastor Mark, Stephanie, and families in the birthday celebration of their niece, Trinity who is 1-years-old!** We are thankful they were able to gather to celebrate her life and ask for a prayer of gratitude for this past year and many years to come! Blessings to the families as they can now-since they moved to MI -physically celebrate together!

**-“Dear Prayer Partners at Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church,** Praise the Lord! We completed the purchase of the green building next to MFAM Training Center in Congo today. We thank the Lord for the faithful support of God’s people in the acquisition of this building to be used for the training of pastors in Congo. Thank you for all who prayed and gave financially to meet this important ministry need.”

**Many blessings, Paul and Charlotte Mpindi**

**-Our hearts and prayers go out to the WMC family and community in the sudden & unexpected loss of 15-year-old Alia Zuidema** from a clot this past Saturday. She was a student at WMC. Alia was a remarkable talented child of God who will be extremely missed, forever loved, and never forgotten. Please keep her parents Anne and Jason, younger sister in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at GHCS, and older sister a senior at WMC in your prayers. Also, keep Dave Miedema and others who knew, taught, and cared for her through her this time on earth. We thank God for the tight knit community of believers that are surrounding this family and the school community in support, service, love, and prayer. As Dave wrote: Thank you all for the prayers. It’s been a hard and exhausting 4 days for the WMC community, but He continues to give us strength for today and hope for tomorrow.

-We give thanks to God that **Marcia Breuker’s** transesophageal echocardiogram on Wednesday went perfectly, and her heart checked out well.

## B.L.E.S.S. PRAYER SECTION

-**We live to B.L.E.S.S.:** Believe; Love; Evangelize; Support Christian Education; Serve. As a church, we are coming out of a time where we've grown together as a church body and developed a new mission and vision statement. We now have a new pastor, and the council is starting to bring opportunities before us to put our faith in action.

This **B.L.E.S.S. Prayer Section** provides us with a place to help us put our faith and prayer walk with Jesus into action, maybe get out of our comfort zones and grow! Thanks to Steve Rop for his ideas and help with this new section.

Pray for:

-**Vision and wisdom** to see where God is leading Allen Ave.

-Officers of the council, the council members and Pastor Mark.

- Prayers that congregation members **will support the council in developing new faith and outreach initiatives with their prayers, time, and talents.**

- Prayers that members step up and support the **coffee ministry at MCC.** That God might give the members a listening ear and graceful words when talking to the students.

- **Mission trip plans may come to fruition,** and members may volunteer to serve on the mission trip.

- That **Pastor Mark may work alongside the council** and support their efforts by his preaching of the Word, in the teaching of the congregation, and by applying his past experiences.



*He knows my name*  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.  
Isaiah 43:1

*He sees my every move*  
Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?  
Psalm 139:7

*He thinks about me*  
How amazing are your thoughts concerning me.  
How vast is the sum of them!  
Psalm 139:17

*He is with me*  
Have I not commanded you? Be strong and  
courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be  
discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with  
you wherever you go.  
Joshua 1:9

*He will fight for me*  
The Lord will fight for you;  
you need only to be still.  
Exodus 14:14

*He made me in his image*  
So God created mankind in his own image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.  
Genesis 1:27

*He is my safe place*  
Truly he is my rock and my salvation;  
he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.  
My salvation and my honor depend on God;  
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.  
Trust in him at all times, you people;  
pour out your hearts to him,  
for God is our refuge.  
Psalm 62:6-8

*He has a plan for me*  
For I know the plans I have for you," declares the  
Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm  
you, plans to give you hope and a future."  
Jeremiah 29:11

*He is good*  
You are good, and what you do is good;  
teach me your decrees.  
Psalm 119:68

*He is freedom*  
Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit  
of the Lord is, there is freedom.  
2 Corinthians 3:17

*He is always with me*  
And surely I am with you always,  
to the very end of the age.  
Matthew 28:20