

SERMON NOTES:

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6 :11-16

Message: The Good Confession

ALLEN AVENUE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



Contact Us:

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



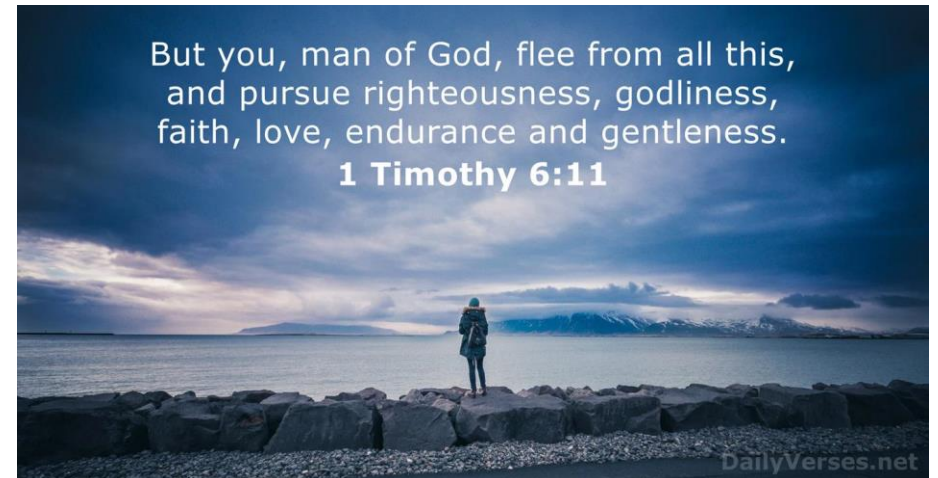
(231) 722-6411



www.allenavechurch.org



aacrcsecretary@gmail.com



But you, man of God, flee from all this,
and pursue righteousness, godliness,
faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

1 Timothy 6:11

**PASTOR STAN STURING
WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM
JANUARY 15, 2023**

Come...Now is the Time to Worship

Sunday, January 15, 2023

GATHER

Prelude

Invitation to Quiet

Call to Worship

Leader: In Christ, the God of heaven has made his home on earth.

People: Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

Leader: Highest of all creation, he lives among the least.

People: He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.

Leader: Come now, all who thirst,

People: and drink the water of life.

Leader: Come now, all who hunger,

People: and be filled with good things.

Leader: Come now, all who seek,

People: and be warmed by the fire of love.

PRAISE

*Opening Song of Praise

In Christ Alone

LUYH 770

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

BAPTISM AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

The baptism of Addy Maat

*Song

Ten Thousand Reasons

LUYH 559

The Profession of Faith of Emily Snyder

*Song

Way Maker

INTERCEDE

Prayers of the People

Bob Vanderlaan

Children's Blessing (in unison)

The Lord loves you.

He promises to be with you

in this new year.

Praise him for being so good.

May he bless you as you learn

about him. Go in peace.

LISTEN

*Sung Prayer of Illumination

Speak, O Lord

LUYH 755

Scripture Passage

1 Timothy 6 :11-16

Message:

The Good Confession

Prayer of Application

RESPOND

Offering: General Fund & World Renew

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

*Sung Confession of Faith

I Serve a Risen Savior

LUYH 365

*God's Parting Blessing

*Parting Song of Praise

To God Be the Glory

LUYH 956

*Postlude

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



NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

01/15: Nursery: Karen and Maelin
Coffee Fellowship: Congregational Life
01/22: Nursery: Susan V and Mel V
Coffee Fellowship: Scott and Toni S
01/29: Nursery: Charry S and Tayla
Coffee Fellowship: Mike and Marcia B
02/05: Nursery: Lis M & Mary P
Coffee Fellowship: Jessica W & Kristen V

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

Nella B	Joann D	Wilma D	Jim D
Vicky F	Lois G	Pearl K	Joel S
Betty T	Joyce V	Ro V	June W
	Tillie W	John W	

-We love and pray for all the families on our care list and for all of the care givers who so lovingly serve and help them...Bless them! Amen!

WELCOME TO ALLEN AVENUE CRC

A Warm Welcome to Our Visitors, Guests, Members!

We are so glad you have come to join us in worship 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 a time of refreshments immediately following today's worship.

Live streaming of our worship service is slated to begin at 9:55am on Sunday morning. The live stream will be located under the videos section of the YouTube page. The worship videos will continue to be available as a recording if you are unable to watch the service live.

COUNCIL NEWS

After the council met to hear their testimonies and their love for Jesus, it is with great joy the congregation will be witnessing the **Profession of Faith of Emily Snyder and the baptism of Addy Maat today!** We will continue the celebration with cake and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service.

The special offering for this Sunday, January 15, is World Renew.

World Renew's tagline is "Living Justice – Loving Mercy – Serving Christ". While an arm of the CRC, World Renew does not receive funding through Ministry Shares. Let's support them as they join communities around the world to renew hope, reconcile lives and restore creation.

The deacons are grateful for the December gifts and offerings of \$15,031 to the General Fund, \$156 for Love INC and \$185 for the Muskegon Rescue Mission.

The total General Fund giving for 2022 was \$248,752, well short of the budgeted \$270,000. However, our total expenses were \$244,463, also well short of the budget. The primary areas where the budget was "off" include staff compensation (we budgeted half of the year for a new pastor, other staff changes occurred), Christian Ed (we budgeted for some students who left Allen Ave) and general under-spending on several budget lines.

COUNCIL NEWS (continued...)

The Finance Committee has prepared the 2022 year-end giving statements. Some of them have been mailed, but most of them are in the mailboxes in the basement of church. If you have any questions or concerns, please see Jean Botting.

The deacons have remained in contact with our offering envelope vendor. Production delays continue and their goal is to have them shipped by the end of January. Again, we apologize for the inconvenience.

"You are invited to join us on Sunday, January 22 at 6:00pm for a **Retirement Worship Service of Celebration for Pastor Bob DeVries** at Covenant Life Church." --Covenant Life Council

The next **Classis Muskegon meeting** has been scheduled for Thursday, February 23, at 9:30am. They will meet at Calvin CRC in Muskegon. Please remember our classis in your prayers.

Remember our Council - Brian S, Bob V, Sherrie W, Stan R, Gabe V, Kelly D, Karen A, Jean B, Judy, Scott, Dave, Charry, and Pastor Stan.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

Do you consider painting one of your skills/gifts?? Would you like to serve your church and our new Pastor and his family by helping to paint the parsonage? **Dave Bishop** is looking for you! Meet him after the morning worship service in the front of the sanctuary and volunteer before going down to the celebration...we'll let you have two pieces of cake if you can help!

Ladies Mystery Craft Afternoon is January 28 at 1:00pm and you are INVITED! You will love this craft! The cost is \$5.00 to be collected when you arrive. Be sure to invite your friends and spend a fun afternoon crafting with friends. This will be held in our church basement. Our sign-up sheet is next to the cookie window downstairs. TODAY is the last day for signing up! See Laurie Slorf or Kelly Dauser for questions. Big reveal of the craft will be Sunday by the sign-up sheet!

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES (cont...)

Invitation from Pastor Stan: I just read a Facebook post on the loneliness and isolation of people, especially young mothers—people wanting community and connection. The responses were overwhelmingly similar. Many people are looking for meaningful relationships. This is an invitation to join Pastor Stan as he leads us through *Gospel Love: Grace, Relationships and Everything that Gets in the Way*. This nine-part series will meet on Thursday evenings, January 19, 26, (then two weeks off) then February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. We plan to have a bite to eat together at 6:30, and then learn how the gospel impacts our relationships with others, within the church and in living out the gospel to others. This is open to any and all. So, I can know how much food to get and whether I need to get more books, please sign up on the list in the church office.

GEMS are meeting Wednesday, January 18, 6-8pm in the church basement. Be sure to bring your sub and croissant order forms to turn in tonight.

The GEMS are again taking orders for subs and croissants. As most of you know, these delicious sandwiches are a must have! The subs are 3 meats and 2 cheeses while the croissants are ham and cheese or turkey and cheese. The cost is only \$3.00 each and all the proceeds go to offsetting the cost of GEMS Camp for the girls from our club who go to camp in the summer. You need to eat, the sandwiches are scrumptious, and your money goes to a great cause! It's a win, win, win!! Please order your sandwiches today on the order form located in the basement. Or contact Jill (231.740.2747) to place your order. Orders will be taken until January 18. Sandwiches will be delivered on Sat., Feb. 4. Call Jill if you have any questions.

Advanced Notice: **The Ladies Bible Study** will meet next Thursday, January 19, at 1:30 in the church basement.

MCS is looking for volunteers to watch 6-10 staff kids on the first and second Mondays of each month. Thanks to Dave and Joanne B for volunteering for November and December. Helpers are needed on February 13, March 6 and 13, April 10, and May 8 and 15. You can email or call Nate directly. 602-423-6094 or nschout@mchristianschool.com.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES (cont...)

CPR/AED training for our church members who are interested is tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, February 8, from 6-8pm**. Cost will be \$25 or less, depending on the size of the group. Please see Sherrie W for sign-up or more information.

Western Michigan Christian is seeking a long-term sub for High School Spanish and Film Studies beginning in mid-March. The ideal candidate must be able to speak Spanish and will need to register with EduStaff. For more information, please contact Jennifer Lewis, Director of Curriculum and Instruction at mrslewis@wmchs.net.

Allen Avenue Prayer Ministry Prayer Time will resume this Tuesday, January 8, from 7-8PM. Updates: Join us by selecting this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81035650227?pwd=cUhpVTdzTVlUbEMyVGs3UTBLWE5pQT09> Passcode: 573272 Meeting ID: 810 3565 0227

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

-Pray for Our Care List Member of the week – **Joel Stefanits**.

-Allen Avenue Missionary of the week – **Stan & Bessie K.** – **Calvin University**

News from Stan & Bessie K: Bessie is scheduled for cataract surgery on her left eye this coming Wednesday, January 11. She's been having some trouble with high blood pressure, so please pray especially that that won't be a problem. Pray that she'll be relaxed, that the surgery will be very successful with no problems or complications, and that her normal vision will be restored. Pray also for guidance regarding timely scheduling for the cataract surgery on her right eye.

The Missions elective course I was to teach this month didn't get enough students to hold the class, but one student is taking it as an independent study, so I am guiding him in that. He is Arthur Agu Nwabufo from Nigeria. Pray God's blessing and wisdom on him for this course and his coming studies, as well as his adjustment here.

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS (cont...)

In November we challenged all to support "Giving Tuesday." We didn't quite reach the goal but did receive generous support from many. For that, we are more than thankful to God and for your generosity in partnering with us in God's mission work through Resonate.

Excerpts from Missionaries Paul & Charlotte M:

Charlotte and I are getting ready to travel to Congo (Kinshasa) for three months of intensive ministry. I, Paul, will be teaching six classes to local pastors at Mission French Africa training center. We were expecting around 150 local pastors to sign up for the training, but as of today, 266 have signed up. Praise the Lord! Charlotte will study full time to prepare also for her special ministry to women.

-Let's remember to lift up Paul and Charlotte this week especially for travel preparation, great flights, luggage that arrives on time, comfortable accommodations, proper rest, and spiritual preparations for their entire team and for the hundreds that they will minister to in the months ahead.

-God has provided us with faithful service from Jack D, Dean J, John K, Dave V who have helped us in our walk of faith. Thank you, retiring council members!

-We also are blessed to have hearts opened to serve in our body of Christ as Deacons and Elders. Praises to Christ for bringing us Charry S, Dave M, Scott S, and Judy V. Thank you, and we promise to lift you up in prayer!

-Sue Secord will be having knee replacement surgery on Monday, January 16. Pray for a successful surgery, pain-management, and great rehab progress.

-"Dear Friends at Allen Avenue, On behalf of **our sweet mom, Joyce Vanderlaan**, we would like to thank all of you for the lovely and tasty Christmas bag of treats, the many beautiful Christmas cards, your visits, and especially for praying for her. Mom is richly blessed by all of you —for YOU, we give thanks! With all our love, Pam & Lori"

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS (cont...)

-Continue to pray for Case, Judy, Ron, and Sandy with their health struggles.

-Lois Grinwis would like to thank the congregation for everything she received in her Christmas bag.

-Jim Doornbos is so appreciative to his church family for remembering him at Christmas time with all of his cards and treats in his Christmas bag.

-We pray for our school children of all ages- Simon, Nora, Karrissa, Yeabsira, Tekalegn, Maelin, Tayla, Emily, Devon, Travis, Katelyn, Trevor, Tiffany, Molly, Taylor, Danny, Luke, Adele, Joe, Matthew, Carlie, Daniel, Serenity, Lily, Riley, Pao

-For MCS and WMC as well as all schools/teachers-Lis, Dave, Nate, Becky, Stephanie

-Becky F's mom, Nancy, is moving from independent to assisted living. She is so sad and will never adjust well with her disease. Pray for the move to go well and she will find contentment and happiness while she is there.

-Kathy and kids: Please pray for Kathy as she tries to stay healthy, so she is able to enjoy a few days in Florida next week with a good friend. Pray that Tina, Samantha, and Charlie get over the sickness they have been experiencing, so they are well while Kathy's sister and her husband watch them in Kathy's absence. (Steve R)

-Carver and Maddox-Pray for them to remain healthy. Maddox's surgery has been postponed until after flu season. (Steve R)

-Baby Myla-We have been praying for Liz and Pat and now they ask us to lift up little 4-month-old, Myla. She is a niece of Liz's home care nurse's family and she is struggling for her life in a GR hospital. She is on a ventilator and has both pneumonia and influenza A.

-Elisabet-who is 9 months old and is the daughter of Melody's friend's niece and lives in the Dominican Republic. May she heal from an infection which caused havoc with her intestines, has a temporary colostomy bag, and an additional port in her neck for feeding. As she heals they are hopeful she will not need these long-term. (Melody S)

-Levi- June W's daughter, Barb's grandson was discharged over the holiday and is now doing great! Praises & Thanks to God!

-Pat M as she continues PT & to heal from surgery and the loss of Kristin.

-Let us intercede for the lost, the weak, and those in need:

-War-torn countries, immigrants, the homeless, those overtaken by evil, abused ones, the depressed, lonely, hungry, thirsty, imprisoned, Willie...

-Heartfelt thanks and praise that Pastor Mark, Stephanie and family have accepted the call to come to Allen Avenue! It may be March, but they have lots to arrange, so please continue to pray for God's guidance and wisdom as they leave their current congregation and prepare to journey across the country to make a home here in Muskegon and with us!

A Prayer for us as a church to remember based on last Sunday's Message:

Father, help us this day to keep our mouths from gossip. Help us to not hide behind the secrecy that harms. May we be bold in your Word and Spirit and not fear unholy confrontation. When we serve may it not be in self-service but with a Spirit of joy, thanks and service to you. Keep our minds focused on having conversations with you and may we not forget you in our daily lives. Keep us clothed in a forgiving, listening, and uplifting Spirit offering hope, support and kindness to all we meet. May we be known for our love, not our politics or selfishness. Bring us to our knees and raise us up with your mighty and loving hands so we can tell or show others just what it means to truly be in unity together with you. We pray this as your Church. Amen.

