

SERMON NOTES:

Scripture: Romans 13:8-10 Galatians 5:13-16

Message: Lover Never Hurts

ALLEN AVENUE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



Contact Us:

Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church

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**PASTOR STAN STURING
WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM
JANUARY 22, 2023**

Come...Now is the Time to Worship

Sunday, January 22, 2023

GATHERING

Prelude

Invitation to Quiet

Call to Worship

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

—Matthew 11:28-29, NIV

PRAISE

*Songs of Praise

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

LUYH 825

With Joy I Heard My Friends Exclaim

LUYH 66:1-3,5

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

God's Law as a Rule of Gratitude

PsH 1017

Song of Dedication

You Shall Love the Lord

LUYH 724

INTERCESSION

Prayers of the People

Pastor Stan

Children's Blessing (in unison)

Jesus loves the little children of the world. May his blessing be upon you. May his love surround you. May his joy fill you. Go out to learn about Jesus with praise and thanksgiving.

PROCLAMATION

*Song of Preparation

God is Love

LUYH 305

Scripture Passage :

Romans 13 :8-10, Galatians 5 :13-16

Message:

Love Never Hurts

Prayer of Application

RESPONSE

Offering: General Fund

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

*Our Commitment to Love One Another (1 John 4:7-12)

Leader: Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

People: Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Leader: This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

People: This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Leader: Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

People: No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Song

Koinonia

LUYH 258

*God's Parting Blessing

*Parting Song of Praise

*Postlude

My Friends, May You Grow in Grace

LUYH 938

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



NURSERY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

01/22: Nursery: Susan V and Mel V
Coffee Fellowship: Scott & Toni S
01/29: Nursery: Charry S and Mary P
Coffee Fellowship: Mike & Marcia B
02/05: Nursery: Lis M and Maelin V
Coffee Fellowship: Jessica W & Kristen V
02/12: Nursery: Laurie DJ and Kristen V
Coffee Fellowship: Jim & Barb M

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

Minutes of the Council Meeting on January 17, 2023, at 6:30 PM

- 1) The meeting was opened with prayer requests and a time of prayer for about 30 minutes.
- 2) Minutes from our December meeting were received.
- 3) Reports were received for information, including Pastor Stan's report. Much thanks to him for all of the work and calling he has done.
- 4) Classis meetings were discussed and our delegates for the February 23 meeting at Calvin CRC were decided on. Pastor Stan, Brian Schuitema (Elder), and Charry Snyder (Deacon) will be representing Allen Avenue CRC
- 5) The transition timeline for Pastor Stan and Pastor Mark were discussed.
- 6) Church procedures, for all council members, but especially our new member were reviewed.
- 7) We closed with prayer at about 8:15.



Valentine's Day is soon approaching. Let's remember our under-grad college students with notes of encouragement and delicious snacks. There are bags in the basement for Taylor J, in her first year of general studies at MCC; Kayla J, a junior at Michigan studying Sport Management; Yeabsira V, a freshman at Saginaw Valley studying Finance; Devin S, in his second year at MCC, the first year of auto mechanics; and Travis S, in his first year at MCC, studying auto mechanics. Let's celebrate these five students!

COUNCIL NEWS (continued...)

The special offering for January 29 will be for the Calvinist Cadet Corps which has been around since 1952. Even though Allen Avenue CRC does not currently have a Cadet program, we all know their motto and theme song, "Living for Jesus," and will continue to support this very worthwhile denominational program.

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.

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

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, starting January 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.

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.

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.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES (cont...)

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

From the Muskegon Rescue Mission: As an organization, we are deeply grateful for the support we receive from our community. Whether you are volunteering for an event or in our shelters, financially supporting us or donating goods to our guests and Thrift Stores, your support means so much! The simplest, and most effective, support you can offer is your prayers. That is why we are inviting you to be a part of our community-wide email Prayer Team and help pray for current Mission needs as they arise throughout our organization. These prayer requests will come to you bi-weekly on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from our Discipleship Director, Matt Kooi. Receiving these updates will enable you to go to the Father in an informed manner for real and relevant concerns. Imagine the Kingdom impact you will have when we lift up the work of the Mission in prayer! Go to muskegonmission.org/pray/ to sign up for the prayer requests/updates.

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

Believe - Believe in One Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Believe that the Bible is the true and inspired Word of God and reveals the saving message of Jesus Christ.

Love - Love and nurture one another as the body of Christ and our neighbors as children of God.

Evangelize - Evangelize by sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with our neighbors and by participating in mission efforts across the globe.

Support - Support Christian education with our gifts and prayers and by volunteering our time.

Serve - Serve our community and world by pursuing God's justice and peace in all areas of life.

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

-Update from Pastor Paul & Charlotte Mpindi:

- 1) We are ready to train local pastors here literally, some in classrooms with air conditioning, but some on a balcony under extreme heat and exposed to the elements, since it is the rainy season here.
- 2) We are so happy because of the great response we are receiving from local pastors who have registered in large numbers. We can't accommodate all of them, but my "fisherman" mindset refuses to stop fishing for more!
- 3) Please pray for wisdom as we are deciding what to do next. My heart aches by the thought of turning some away. Our target for the number of pastors to train for this year was 150. But as of today, the number had swollen to 276.
- 4) Please pray for rain to fall somewhere else than Kinshasa for the next three months. That would help with our students of two classes of about 60 students each that will be meeting outside: one on a balcony and another in an open pavilion.

Outside Prayer Request from the church website...how amazing is this!

-Prayer request from Rob:

Please pray that Rebecca Eagen will be blessed in her Life and Job according to the will of Christ Jesus. May the Lord keep the heart and mind of Rebecca Eagen. May the Lord pour out the Holy Spirit upon her, in Jesus' name. May the Lord's Blessing, Love, Hope and Grace and Spiritual Discernment be in all Rebecca Eagen decisions. May the Lord bless her. May the Lord allow the holy angels to be with her at this time and always, may she be enveloped in the loving hands of the Lord, that the Lord bless our jobs and lives in eternity in Christ Jesus. Thank you!

-Anonymous prayer request from a family in New York:

1-Many are painfully suffering. God give them strength, relief, freedom, may His grace & love break through the chains.

2-Pray for God's Power to reach those who are lost in their families.

3-Keep this person & the mom safe. Clearly guide them in their situation.

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

-Pray for Our Care List Member of the week – **Betty Ten Brink.**

-Allen Avenue Missionary of the week –**Eric & Judith T.**

-**"We would like to give a heartfelt thank you** to the congregation for the care that you have shown to us in the last few weeks. Special thanks to Pastor Stan for his many calls and visits he made. So many prayers have been answered. We also want to thank all of you who offered your help to us in various ways. You supplied us with meals so that when we came home from the hospital at 8:00 at night, we did not need to prepare something. We have felt your love and the Love of God through you. Keep the prayers coming, if you would, so that Case may get stronger and come home." **Case, Judy, Eric, and Stacy Vaandering**



-We were gifted last Sunday with the Baptism of Addy Maat and the Profession of Faith of Emily Snyder! It is with great joy that we welcome them into the Family of God at Allen Avenue. We thank God for bringing them to this place in their lives and for giving them wonderful families who walk beside them in their love for Christ! May we as their church family continue to love them as Jesus loves us!

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

-“Thank you! Thank you for the wonderful bag of cards and goodies.

Thanks to Brian S for delivering it. Thanks to all who call and write often. I still feel a part of Allen Avenue! **June Walcott**

-We give thanks and praise God that Pastor Mark, Stephanie and family

are coming to Allen Avenue. We ask for a smooth transition as they prepare for the move. It appears they will be here the end of February. We thank God for all those working to get the parsonage ready, so they can come to a comfortable place upon arrival.

-Sue Secord praises God for a successful OP knee surgery on Monday! She is already home and being taken care of by her two daughters and husband, Jim. She is doing exercises, walking around the house and has relatively little pain. Thank God with her and pray for full rehab and pain free movement.

-Keri and Fernando V.- “We are doing well. Fernando is making good progress on his Doctorate and we are living with his Mom, Gloria. God has strengthened our marriage, given us a hunger for His Word, and provided us with a wonderful church family just 10 minutes away from where we live. We are still waiting on God's timing and direction on a job for Fernando, but our goal is for him to finish his program (which is full time) before we apply for more jobs, so that he can remain focused and finish as soon as possible (right now that looks like March/April). That is our biggest prayer request right now! I cannot legally work here until I receive my residency, but in the meantime, I have kept busy with odd jobs and house work. It's an adjustment but we are grateful for this unique season in our lives.”

-Becky F's mom Nancy T moved into Christian Care Assisted Living on Monday. They are thankful and praise God that the move went well. We pray she will find contentment and happiness while she is there.

-Elisabet-This little 9-month-old in the Dominican Republic is doing much better! She had an infection that put her temporarily on a colostomy bag/feeding tube in her neck. (Melody)

-Baby Myla- The 4-month-old who was struggling for her life in on a ventilator with both pneumonia and influenza A. Praise God that she was released from the hospital to her home last week and is since doing well! (Peg R)

PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVINGS

-Nancy R was diagnosed with early stage breast cancer. She is scheduled for surgery on Thursday, January 26 at Mercy. (Steve R)

-Brian S as he still is searching for relief after his back went out. Pray for God to give him relief so he is able to continue doing God's work in this world. We thank you, God, for giving us such a godly man and consistory president.

-Please continue to keep **Lis and Dave M** in your prayers as they foster refugees. At this time, we pray for their little girl from Guatemala who was moved to another state. We pray that her mom is located so that she may be reunited and God's grace and kindness is shown.

-Joanne D had an ineffective quadruple bypass surgery. On Thursday, January 19, doctors inserted an ICD (Implantable Cardio-Defibrillator), a battery powered device which is surgically inserted into the chest and continually monitors for irregular heartbeats (arrhythmias). If any arrhythmia occurs, it will send electronic shock waves to reset the heart to a normal rhythm. Please pray for her recovery to go well and that the device helps solve the problem. (Pastor Stan)

-Joyce V has been moved into hospice care at this time. She is still in the same facility at Dogwood. Shores. Please keep her and her family/extended family in prayer.

-Tillie W's daughter Mary said her mom was more anxious this past week. She said that June's grandson, Caleb, who is a hospice minister was there with them when they visited. He is such a blessing to Tillie and to them and the rest of the family.

-Missionary Bessie K's cataract surgery went well on Monday the 16th. She did have a bit of high blood pressure which we had been praying about. They had a follow-up appointment with the eye surgeon, and he said everything looks ok. Bessie's recovering well. It will take a few days before knowing how much it will improve her vision.