

O Come Let Us Adore Him

The Christmas season is a time of excitement and anticipation for young and old. It's a season to reflect on our lives and to remember that God's kingdom became tangible to us in Jesus that first Christmas long ago and that Jesus has promised to return. Even those who do not yet have a personal relationship with Christ seem to be more open to spiritual things at this time of year. As you make your plans for celebrating Christmas, consider inviting a friend, coworker or family member to join you at one of the upcoming opportunities for worship.



Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

Family Worship at 5:00pm

Multi-generational worship with drama, multi-media, dance, children's choir and worship band. (*Childcare available through age 3*)

Candlelight Worship at 11:00pm

Service of Lessons and Carols with Scripture readings, choir, organ, dance and handbells. (*No childcare*)

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25

Worship at 10:00am followed by fellowship time.

Christmas Giving Opportunities

The pastoral deacons would like to suggest the following opportunities for you to contribute to your Christmas giving:



Clean Water

You can purchase clean water in somebody's honor as a Christmas gift. \$50 is suggested, but any amount will purchase a card that says, "A gift was given on your behalf toward a water purification system to give a family of 10 water for life." Fifth's water team will use these gifts to bless families and villages in Mexico with water purification systems when they travel there in February 2012. What a life changing gift!

This opportunity will be available after the worship service December 11.



Angel Tree Reminder

A big **Thank you** to all for supporting our angel tree families this Christmas! Just a reminder to **please return your wrapped gift, labeled with the angel tag to church by Monday, December 12.**

Ministry Multiplication

The Planter Search Team met on December 4 to discuss the credentials of nine initial applicants for the position of Church Plant Pastor for Fifth's planned church plant in Caledonia. The team continues to seek qualified candidates and will begin interviews later this month. If you know of a potential candidate, please forward the person's contact information to the [Search Team](#) or direct the candidate to the [posting and job description](#) on Fifth's web site.

When it comes to the strategy of planting new churches, some might ask, "Will another church really help? Why not just grow the churches we have? Can't we work on filling the empty church buildings before we start talking about planting new churches?" In short, some wonder why church planting is so important. The answer is very straightforward. New churches focus on the development of people. Over the next several weeks, we will look at some of the ways this happens.

New Churches Reach New People

"New churches are more effective than established churches at conversion growth," states David Olson. New churches often have three to four times the conversion rate of established churches, and the cutting edge of evangelism around the world is church planting and the development of fresh communities of faith.

Quick Links

Message Audio

www.fifthrc.org/media/media.html

Home Page

www.fifthrc.org/index.html

Adult Ministries

www.fifthrc.org/ministries/adult/adult.html

Children & Youth

www.fifthrc.org/ministries/children/children.html

Worship

www.fifthrc.org/music_worship/music_worship.html

Time, Talent & Treasure

The Christmas story - the story of Jesus being born in a manger, shepherds coming to visit and kings following a star to find this infant child - is a story filled with stewardship messages. As you remember the Christmas story this year, talk about the stewardship lessons we find with your family.

Part 1 of 3: Lesson from the Infant Jesus

There is no shame in being poor.

It is interesting to note that while throughout his adult life Jesus always taught us to give and to serve, He first came into this world as one who needed assistance. It was no accident that He was born without a place to lay His head. In coming to our world in this way, Jesus shows us there is no shame in being poor. A risk we take when we practice stewardship is that we may begin to think of ourselves as better or more deserving than someone in need and consciously or unconsciously look down upon those who need our generosity. When we look down upon those in need we look down upon the infant Jesus himself.

Wednesday, November 30

Mid Week Meal 5:45-6:30pm: Mr. Fables Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Homemade Pasta Salad, and Cookies.

- King's Kids Choir Rehearsal: 5:15pm, contact Janna Kooi at jkooi@fifthrc.org
 - GEMS (Girls Club) and Boyz Club: 6:30pm, contact Krista Batdorff at kbatdorff@fifthrc.org
 - Junior High at Fifth (JHAF): 6:30pm, contact Christian Verwys at christianverwys@gmail.com
 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 6:30pm, contact Janna Kooi at jkooi@fifthrc.org
 - Vantage Point³ and Disciple Classes: 6:30pm, contact Bruce Mulder at bmulder@fifthrc.org
 - Community Prayer: 6:30pm, contact Jon Sherrill at jsherrill@fifthrc.org
 - Video Café: 6:45pm, contact Greg Wilkins at gwilkins@fifthrc.org
-

Community Life

SAF Seniors At Fifth

Tuesday, December 13 at noon, plan on attending a luncheon followed by Christmas music and sing along with Randy Wolthuis. Invite a friend! RSVP in the church office.

Elizabeth/Ruth Circle

The Elizabeth/Ruth Morning Circle will meet at church on Tuesday, December 20 at 10:00am for a lesson. Lunch will follow at the Great Lakes Shipping at 11:30am.

Name Tag Sunday

If you were here this past Sunday you might have noticed the table with name tags and sharpie markers. The first Sunday of each month we would like everyone to take part and wear a name tag. Please participate and get to know who is worshipping with us as a family.

Worship and Sunday School Opportunities

Worship: begins at 10:00am.

Children and Youth Education:

- **The Gate** (4-4th grade): during 10:00am Worship (The Gate uses a small group/ large group format during the 10am service and rotates between learning stations for the 11:15am hour).
- **Sunday School:** (youth through adult) is from 11:15am-12:15pm.
- **College and Young Adults:** meet in the bell tower at 11:30am.
- **YAF** (Youth at Fifth): high school large group at 6:00pm upstairs in the YAF room.

Adult Education: 11:15am-12:15pm

- **Christian Issues:** leader: Dave Bast, meets in the west community room.

Topics change from week to week. Visitors are welcome to stop in anytime.

- **Message Continued...:** discuss the day's sermon with others. Coffee, juice, and donut holes are provided! Meets in the east community room.

Moment for Mission



Judy Estell recently bumped into a former prison inmate working at a car wash. Judy hadn't been impressed with the lady's response at the prison, but now she was so excited to meet Judy and share her faith experiences. Please pray that Judy will continue to be a blessing to many of her contacts there in Yu-Shan, Taiwan. (Bless Judy's daughter Ruth, also, as she teaches and witnesses in Xian, China.)

Unsubscribe

If you would like to remove your name from our mailing list, email Renae Kindle at rkindle@fifthrc.org and type UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

Deadlines for Information Submission

- eNews@fifth: Monday, 12:00pm
- Worship Guide: Wednesday, 10:00am

Contact Renae Kindle at rkindle@fifthrc.org

Community Life (cont.)

Apples of Gold 2011

Apples of Gold will begin **Monday, January 9, 2012**. Apples of Gold is a six week Bible study where older women nurture younger women in the Word of God. Along with the Bible study, participants will learn cooking, relationship and hospitality skills. Interested in attending or mentoring? Contact Betsy Broene at broenefam@comcast.net or 942-1683. Pick up a brochure on the hub!

Nursery Ministry Opportunities

One of the most important ministries here at Fifth is caring for the little ones in the nursery. The nursery and preschool room are in need of helpers. Contact Rashel Workman at 540-4660 or grworkman@gmail.com if you love working with kids and are able to help.



Knitted / Crocheted Items for Mulick Park School

Do you knit or crochet? Would you consider making some mittens, hats and/or scarves? These items will be donated to children from impoverished homes who attend Mulick Park School. The knitted / crocheted items will be placed on the Angel Tree after the angels are removed. Items may be purchased from a store are greatly appreciated.

Do you need yarn? An easy pattern? Or don't know how to knit and would like to learn? Contact Lori Kane, 949-9700 or lkane-321@sbcglobal.net.

2012 'Dine With Nine' Groups

Dine With Nine is an intergenerational group where Fifth folks and friends meet for meals and fellowship at homes or restaurants once a month, or as set by the groups. Everyone is invited! All you have to do is sign up for any of the following options:

- Dine with Nine combination (restaurant and potluck)
- Breakfast Only
- Potluck Only
- At Fifth with Babysitting
- Dessert Only
- For Snowbirds (we'll place you in a group that begins when you return).

To sign up for Dine With Nine: email/call Diane Jones at diane@cjonessgroup.com, or 942-7615.

Prayer & Encouragement

Person to Remember: Marie Beld who lives at 2121 Raybrook Ave SE, Nursing #337, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

Remember in Prayer: Elaine Stevens who is having knee replacement surgery Wednesday, December 7; Nicholas Kerns who is having eye surgery Wednesday, December 7; Ruth Nieusma recovering from a fractured pelvis and a broken collar bone; Judy Estell as she continues to impact lives in Taiwan churches, Seminary classes and a local prison. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and use her to challenge and bless many.

Address Updates

Esther Diwakar

1417 Lenox Rd SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616.450.8155

Samuel Hartley

3950 Scenic Ridge #331
Traverse City, MI 49684

Children's Ministry

The Gate—where kids meet and learn to live for Him! (Sunday mornings)

The Gate provides an opportunity for kids to meet God through a number of different ways: interacting with volunteers, participating in lessons, worship, and creative expression. We use small group/ large group formats during the service and rotate between learning stations for the 11:15am hour. The Gate is for children ages 4-4th grade.

GEMS (Girls Club) & Boyz Clubs

Children ages 4yrs-6th grade meet Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm. Check in starts at 6:25pm. Contact Krista Batdorff at kbatdorff@fifthrc.org.

Student Ministry

Junior High (JHAF)

- Sunday Mornings: 11:15am in the JHAF room.
- Wednesday Evenings: 6:30 - 8:00pm in the JHAF room.

Senior High (YAF)

- Sunday Mornings: 11:15am in the YAF room.
- Sunday Evenings: large group at 6:00pm in the YAF room.

Questions? Contact Christian Verwys at christianverwys@gmail.com.

Worship Arts

Jubilation Ringers:

The Handbell Choir rehearsals are on Monday evenings at 7:00pm. Check it out! Contact Colette Akers at cmainenow@gmail.com.

Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir rehearsals are Wednesday nights at 6:30pm. You are invited!

Liturgical Dance

Liturgical Dance rehearsals are Sunday nights at 6:00pm. Contact Sue Wilson at 247-4976 or www930egr@aol.com.

Kings Kids

King's Kids Choir (grades 1-6) rehearsals are at 5:15pm Wednesday evenings. Questions? Call or email Miss Janna at 245-9247, x20 or jkooi@fifthrc.org.

In The News

Recently in a newsletter that Tom Rademacher, who often writes in the *Press*, did for Hope Network, the Woodland Drive-In Church was featured. To view the newsletter in full [click here](#) or visit Fifth's website and click on the Blog tab.

Sunday, December 11

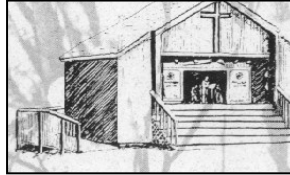
Title: "The Title Messiah"

Text: Matthew 16:13-23

Preacher: Verlyn Verbrugge

Leader: Bunk VanArk

www.driveinchurch.org



Advent Scripture Readings for week of December 4 ...in preparation for Sunday, December 11

Prophecy: Isaiah 35

Psalm: Psalm 146:5-10

New Testament: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Groundwork

Radio Broadcasts

Sunday, December 11

Pastor: David Bast

Coming up on Groundwork:

You Asked! (Part Two)

We are thankful for the listeners who write letters, post questions on our Facebook page, and email us. We'll continue to dig into scripture together to answer some of the questions you've asked Groundwork. Join the Groundwork conversation and tune in.

Tune into your local radio station or listen online at GroundworkOnline.com.

Listen on WPNW (1260) AM on Sunday at 8:00am and 5:00pm or WJQK (99.3) FM on Sunday at 7:30am.

Fifth Reformed Church
2012 Griggs SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616.245.9247
www.fifthrc.org