

Welcome to the Worship of God

Sunday, March 14, 2010 – *Lent 4*

We extend a special welcome to guests who join us today! Pastor Gary Bomhof will bring the message today.

Children **ages 3 to grade 5** will be dismissed for *Sunday school*. There is supervised nursery care for infants to age 3 today. Parents should accompany children who leave the worship service for any reason.

Guests at First Church are cordially invited to a time of fellowship and friendship in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service

We Worship Our Great and Mighty God

***indicates to stand if able**

Gathering Song

“Lord Most High”

Welcome/Announcements

*Call to Worship

*God’s Greeting

*Hymns of Praise to God

“God We Sing Your Glorious Praises”

“Shout to the Lord”

*A Time of Friendship (children dismissed)

Service of Reconciliation

Call to Confession – PsH 535 vs. 1, 3

“Come to the Saviour Now”

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon – PsH 462 vs. 1, 3

“Amazing Grace”

God’s Desire for Us

“Amazing Grace” vs. 5

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading – Matthew 22: 1-14

Message – **Guests at the Wedding Banquet**

*Hymn of Response (Tune: 238)

“A King Put on a Feast”

Pastoral/Offertory Prayer

Our Tithes & Offerings

First Church Ministry Budget

Home Missions – Victor Ko & Mosaic House

*Blessing

*Doxology – “Because We Believe”

Serving Today...

Greeter: Alissa Westera

Helping Hands: Jim Bakker

Nursery: Krista Dunstan, Kathryn Ludwig

FIRST CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

...**Pastor Herman Salomons** continues to recuperate at home.

...continue to pray for those who mourn.

...Remember the many people who are unable to worship with us regularly due to illness or age including **Lies Visser, Nell Drost, Mrs. Spyksma, Winnie Tensen, Audrey Vermeer, John Lindhout, Henk Krikke, and Winnie Krikke.**



FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

YOU ARE INVITED to a time of fellowship in the Fellowship Hall after the morning worship service. Your hosts today: Jo Maetche/Elsie McKinnon

EVENING GATHERING “Christ in the Passover” Tonight we are pleased to welcome Jeremiah Zaretsky of Jews for Jesus to our evening gathering. Jeremiah will re-create the traditional Passover service and explain how it foreshadowed Jesus’ death and resurrection. A table with items traditionally used at Passover meal will be displayed as well. All are invited!

FOUNDATIONS II tonight at 6.00p – 7.00p.

INVITATION All leaders involved in the education ministries of First CRC are invited to an encouragement night at church on Tuesday, March 16th beginning at 6pm. You should find an invitation with the details in your mailbox but if it disappeared, please contact Barb Hessel or Yvonne VanderVeen for more information!

SPECIAL NIGHT OF WORSHIP The Education Team would like to invite everyone in the congregation to join us for a wonderful evening of fellowship and worship on Thursday, March 18th starting at 7pm here at First Church! Troy Kooima and Jason Taylor of Happy the Dog ministries will be here to lead us in worship followed by a time of fellowship over coffee and dessert! Everyone is kindly asked to please bring along a dessert to share! Please come and join us!

THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER Today you will receive the third hand-out on helping us to pray. How great is our God! He taught us to pray and now we may exalt His name and confide in Him with great intimacy. Hope to see all of you next week Sunday at 6.00p. It’s beautiful to be students of the Word. *Pastor Jack*

EASTER AT FIRST CHURCH Easter is quickly approaching and the Worship and Arts Team is again presenting the Easter Lily project. You should have noticed the yellow insert in the bulletin today. If you would like to participate, please complete the form and put it in the offering bag or drop off at the church office. The Team would also like to announce the services as follows: Maundy Thursday Communion, April 1 – 7.00p; Good Friday Tenebrae, April 2 – 8.00p; Resurrection Sunday Breakfast, April 4 – 9.00a; Resurrection Sunday Worship, April 4 – 10.00a. The Sunday morning breakfast is new this year, further details to come! The Acts of Light Drama Team will be an integral part of the services this year. You will not want to miss any of them!

“FILL THAT CONTAINER!” We are working with an orphanage in Haiti (God’s Littlest Angels) to collect and ship requested/needed supplies in a 40ft Sea Can. The supplies will help provide care to the children, families, staff and the community around God’s Littlest Angels. Donations needed range from diapers, wipes and food to tents blankets and tarps. Help us “Fill That Container!” Contact person is Cathy Nicolay (346.1991). For a complete list of supplies see the Welcome Center for a pamphlet and/or visit our blog at <http://fillthatcontainer.blogspot.com> as we are only accepting items off the list. Donations can be put in the box under the mailboxes in church or dropped off at Penner Farm Supplies in Red Deer. Deadline for donations is **TODAY.**

HAVE YOU HEARD? Chancel Choir will begin rehearsals again on April 8. The night will start with a pot-luck supper and then singing ‘till we can’t breathe! Dale is in great shape and full of energy! Our new accompanists are Carolyn Neufeld and Karen Drok. Come join us! More details to come.

THE FREEDOM SINGERS will be here in concert at First Church, Saturday, April 10. Please plan to attend this excellent evening of Southern Gospel music. See Nick Korver for more info.

LET’S TRY THIS AGAIN The Single Senior’s Tea presented by the GEMS and Deacon’s is now scheduled for March 29 at 6.30p. For more info, speak to one of the Deacon’s or check your mail slot.

REMINDER to all user groups. Please make sure all hallway doors **are closed** before you leave. Fire regulations require that all doors are closed. Thank you – Administration Team

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL – Do you feel a calling from God to serve our church as an Elder or Deacon? Do you know someone in our church whom you wish to nominate to be of service to the church on Council? If you have any questions about being an Elder or Deacon you can talk to a Council member. It is a noble task to serve as Elder or Deacon. You may email Barb Hessel at bhessel@shaw.ca or Dan Wind at windrd@telusplanet.net.

Youth Happenings....

-Foundations II meets tonight at 6:00p.

-Bowling Night –all Jr. & Sr. High youth are invited to a fun night of bowling. We will meet at Heritage Lanes at 6.00p, Saturday, March 27. After bowling pizza will be served at the Nicolay home. Pick up time is 10.00p. Please bring \$10 to help cover costs. There is a signup

sheet on the YBB. Sign up and bring a friend! For more info contact Craig Nicolay.

-Acts of Light drama team meets Wednesday, 6.45-8.30p. Please note the time change. We are rehearsing for Easter and need the extra time! All Acts of Light participants are asked to come familiar with your part. Those participating in "the mob" vignette can skip this week but please be there on the 24th and 31st.

-Jr High Ski Retreat Those who signed up for the ski retreat are asked to meet at Dave and Cathy's at 5pm. Please come with supper in your tummies!

-All Youth! 30 Hour Famine is booked for April 16-17. Sign up on the YBB if you want to join the cause!

-Job Posting The Education Team of First CRC is seeking a **Summer Ministries Student**. Applicant must be a committed Christian, and must have completed at least one year of post-secondary education. We are seeking a mature, team player who can demonstrate self-motivation, responsibility and bring leadership to our ministries. The position will be given to someone with a love and joy for children and youth, as well as the capability of coordinating a diverse group of youth and young adult volunteers. Skills in volunteer recruitment will be an asset. Organizational and communication skills are a must. The successful candidate will provide leadership and coordination of our summer ministries, including but not limited to two week-long camps and Summer Sunday School. Also, you will be required to assist and aide in Vacation Bible School. This full time position (approx. 40 hours/week) will run from May 17 – August 27, 2010. Please apply by sending your email and references before April 15, 2010 to summerministriesjob@hotmail.com. Please include a pastoral reference.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

RED DEER MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION has made a commitment to be in prayer weekly for a Christian organization in the City of Red Deer. In this way we are showing our unity and support for each other. This week our prayer is for Westpark Church of the Nazarene.

NEW RECORDING from Cindy Morgan – *"Hymns – Some Glad Morning"*. This is a wonderful new work of old classics done in Cindy style. The CD is available on her website at: www.cindymorganmusic.com I would recommend it for your library! Dale

NEW CRC WEBSITE There's a new way to connect with others in the CRC about church ministries. You can ask questions, share experiences, get resources, read blogs, and more. It's called The Network and it

covers dozens of ministry areas and roles. Check it out at www.crcna.org/Network

WORLD MISSIONS - Get out your paints, markers, and crayons . . . it's Poster Time! Christian Reformed World Missions' 2010 Poster Contest has begun. Create a poster with a missions theme and send it in to CRWM by April 16. Winning posters will be selected according to the following age categories: 6 and under, 7-8, 9-10, and 11 and above. For more information, talk to your Sunday School administrator and Missions Advocate or click on the "Get Involved" tab on www.crwmm.org

THE BIBLE IS GOD'S HOLY WORD and His direction for our lives. Around the world, The Bible League of Canada (TBLC) is committed to providing churches and individuals with the resources that they need to practice the important discipline of Bible reading and prayer: daily listening and talking with God. Partnering with local churches to reach Canadians is an important aspect of our ministry here in Canada. Bibles for evangelism, Devotional Planners for discipleship, Bible studies for mentorship: please pray for all of these ministry opportunities in Canada!
The Bible League of Canada, www.bibleleague.ca

FROM PASTOR HERMAN'S DESK The anaesthesiologist came shortly before my recent surgery to explain a few things. By the time she was finished, I was convinced that I was going to die! I'm still here, but the occasion provided the opportunity to do some serious thinking about death and dying. I decided I wouldn't mind experiencing what it's like, but if I didn't like it, I would want to come back and tell you all about it.

Seriously, the prospect of dying wasn't all that fearful to me because of what we know concerning Jesus the Christ. I was reminded of what a doctor friend told me some time ago -- that he could usually tell the difference between those who sincerely believed in the Gospel and those who didn't by the attitudes they showed toward their prospective death. The believers didn't seem to mind all that much; if their time was up . . . well, their time was up. They'd rather stay here on earth, but if not, it was fine with them to depart and be with Jesus. Those for whom the gospel had no meaning were terribly frightened when told they were facing death and wanted to do anything and everything to postpone it for as long as that could be done.

Nightly news broadcasts always seem to have some health concern to report: a new drug has been invented to help us live longer; new research shows something else that we should or should not do to prolong your lives a few years. Such news reports

can't help but make us think the majority of people in our part of the world are indeed, "scared to death of death," as if that is the worst possible calamity that could ever happen to us, not realizing that there's one thing more devastating and that is to die without knowing the Saviour!

I don't know how much weight is to be put on those "near-death experiences" we've heard about the past 30-40 years or more. Most of them show there is something very pleasant about dying. On the other hand, there are also negative experiences as shown in books such as **"To Hell and Back,"** written by a doctor who had a near-death experience in which he felt himself going to a place of horror, turmoil and fire. He came back, eventually became a Christian, and has since been doing research on the phenomenon claiming that most "hellish experiences" are not reported because they are so frightening that people tend to deny their reality! He himself has become thoroughly convinced that for those who refuse to believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ, death is a terrifying experience, but for Christians, it is so wonderful that they even hear the angels sing as they rise to join the throng! Something to think about, isn't it?

- - Pastor Herman

Birthday Greetings!

Mar	14	Inez Pierik Kaitlin Venema George VandenBrink
	16	Siam Grobler
	17	Kalle Lodewyk
	19	Jenny Postma
	20	Annemarie Grobler Este Badenhorst

Stewardship notes....

Today's Tithes and Offerings:

First Church Ministry Budget
Home Missions – Victor Ko & Mosaic House

Future Offerings:

Mar 21 – Red Deer Hospice
Mar 28 – Friendship

Our giving – Feb 28/Mar 7

Budget	\$14,780.00
Food Grains	\$ 3,668.00
Witteveen	\$ 1,415.00

This week at First Church...

Today	6.00p	Foundations II
	6.00p	Evening Gathering
Mon	6.30p	GEMS/Cadet's
	7.00p	Friendship
Tues	9.30a	Coffee Break
	5.30p	Step Up
	6.00p	Night of Encouragement
Wed	12.30p	KEYS
	6.45p	Drama Team
Thur	7.00p	Evening of Worship
Sat	9.15p	Hockey - Kinex
Sunday	10.00a	Morning Worship
	6.00p	Foundations II
	6.00p	Evening Gathering

Library Hours: Tuesday: 9.30a – 11.30a
Sunday's – after am worship services

Check the church web site: www.firstcreddeer.org for current information.

Serving next week....

Greeter: Martha Jonker
Helping Hands: Rolph Westera
Coffee: Bill/Rolanda Lodewyk
Nursery: Louise Rautenbach/Bruce/Michelle Sytsma