

**DECEMBER 2018** 

# Outlook



A NEWSLETTER OF ORLAND PARK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

#### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

DEACONS' CORNER page 2

PRESCHOOL NEWS page 3

CAR MINISTRY UPDATE page 4

ADULT ED page 5

CONGRATULATIONS page 6

CHOIR NEWS page 6

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS page 7 & 8

CALENDAR page 9



#### December 2: Calvin College | calvin.edu

Calvin College is an educational institution and ministry of the Christian Reformed Church in North America located in Grand Rapids, MI. Founded in 1876, Calvin enrolls about 4,000 students with more than 100 programs of study. Cal-

vin seeks to equip students to think deeply, to act justly, and to live wholeheartedly as Christ's agents of renewal in the world. Behind Calvin's mission is a set of deep beliefs tied to the Reformed tradition of historic Christianity.

#### **December 9: Providence Life Services | providence lifeservices.com**

Answering the call to enhance the lives of those we serve in the name of Jesus Christ. Providence Life Services was founded from a desire to provide high quality affordable care for those in our community that are aging. They serve a wide spectrum of residents and patients and their services reflect the commitment to embracing totality of

their clients' lives. Services include: Retirement Living, Townhome Living, Small Home living, In-Home Care, Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing, Memory Care, Respite Care, Hospice, and Rehabilitation Services. They have services in Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan.

#### December 16: All God's People | allgodspeoplechicago.org

All God's People is an organization that ministers to the needs of homeless people in the Chicago Loop area. The second Saturday of the month they distribute clothing, blankets, toiletries, and food to over 500 needy people at State and Van Buren. The organization has a warehouse in Orland Park

and accepts volunteers and donations. Volunteers say it is an honor to serve in Christ's name - a blessing to share a smile, a word of encouragement, or a few moments to listen with a caring heart. Being Jesus' hands and feet to those in need.

#### December 23: Chicago Christian Counseling Center | chicagochristiancounseling.org

Chicago Christian Counseling Center provides Christ-centered professional counseling throughout Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana for people in emotional pain. It was founded more than 40 years ago in a joint effort between two RCA and 3 CRC classes in the Chicago area. As the Chicago Christian Counseling Center reaches out to individuals and families to meet mental health needs, they also make a commitment to try to help those with limited financial resources in order to pay fees. Supported by donors, funds help cover costs for hurting people in our communities.

#### December 30: Love INC (Love In the Name of Christ) | loveinc.org

Love INC connects local Christian churches so they can partner together in a coordinated way to address and respond to the needs of their communities, as one Church, In the Name of Christ. Love INC will work with churches to determine gaps in their ministry services and assist them in establishing new GAP Ministries. Churches can also refer those in need to the Love INC Clearinghouse where their needs will be verified and a plan for assistance can be coordinated. Together, churches focus not on their differences but on the shared belief in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to transform lives and transform communities in the Name of Christ.

## Preschool News By Ruth Baas, Preschool Director

#### PRESCHOOL CHILDREN CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING

he children at Orland Park Christian Preschool have had a great month learning what it means to be thankful! Here are the things we decided we are most thankful for this year:

#### T/Th 3-year-old class

Mikayla	my Pinkalicious doll
_	my magic wand
	my family and airplanes
	my family
	food
	my parents and sister
Holly	my family
Avery	my mom and dad
Harper	my blankie and Snoopy
Tyler	my friends
Mackenzie food	to eat, especially meatballs
Emmett	cars
Thomas	Ironman
Annie	my dragon
Lydia	seashells
Lukas	my family
Alexis	My Little Pony
Faith	my family



Our school teepee with its pretend fire was popular at play time.

#### M/W/F 4-year-old class



Preschool children learned about Pilgrims, Native Americans, and turkeys in November.

## **Car Ministry Update**

-Bruce Harnew

#### CAR MINISTRY STATISTICS

During 2018, the car ministry has distributed 33 vehicles to families in the Chicagoland area. Since the start of this program back in February of 2000, we have distributed 920 vehicles. We praise God for what He is doing through this important ministry at Orland Park Christian Reformed Church. Through the efforts of the car ministry program, Christian mercy is shown to those in need of reliable transportation to get to employment, children to day care and school, families to church, and other necessities such as grocery store and doctor visits.

#### **VEHICLE DISTRIBUTIONS IN 2018:**

Jan 20: 01 Ford Explorer XLT 4WD; To: Reborn Church, Chicago

Jan 20: 07 Pontiac Grand Prix; To: Wellspring Alliance Ch., Wheaton

Feb 4: 03 Honda Pilot AWD; To: Reborn Church, Chicago

Feb 21: 08 Chrysler Town & Country; To: Roseland CRC, Chicago

Feb 23: 06 Chrysler Pacifica; To: Trinity Lutheran Church, Tinley Park

April 11: 05 Chevy Cobalt LS 4Door; To: OPCRC missionary

April 17: 08 Chevy Uplander LS; To: Calvary Church missionary

May 5: 02 Ford Escape 4WD; To: Christ Church, Lansing

May 23: 01 Ford Escape 4WD; To: New Vision MB Church, Kankakee

June 2: 07 Jeep Patriot 4WD; To: Harvest Bible Chapel, Palos Heights

June 7: 07 Pontiac Grand Prix, 4Door; To: Parkview Church, Orland Park

June 8: 96 Toyota Camry, XLE; To: Peace Community Church/PASS

June 28: 06 Ford Taurus SE; To: Faith CRC, Tinley Park

June 30: 09 Kia Rio LX, 4Door; To: Logos Presbyterian Church, Wheeling

July 14: 04 Ford Escape 2WD; To: Ottawa Lighthouse Church

July 14: 06 Toyota Sienna XLE; To: New Birth Church, Chicago

July 20: 05 Dodge Grand Caravan; To: Roseland CRC, Chicago

July 21: 02 Saturn SL1, 4Door; To: Faith Bible Church, Joliet

July 21: 4 Toyota Camry LE; To: Safe Families Program

July 28: 03 Ford Expedition; To: New Life Community Church, Homer Glen

Aug 6: 11 Chrysler Van Handicap; To: St. Stevens Church, Tinley Park

Aug 7: 00 Toyota Echo, 4Door; To: Mattoon Wayside Chapel, Mattoon

Aug 31: 06 Chevy Cobalt, 4Door; To: Chosen Generation Ch., Chicago Hts

Sept 7: 07 Buick Rendezvous CXL; To: Salisbury Community Ch, Charleston

Sept 14: 08 Ford F150 CrewCab, 2WD; To: Orland Park CRC

Sept 29: 00 Toyota Camry, Tan; To: Park Manor Christian Church, Chicago

Oct 6: 03 Chrysler Voyager; To: Divine Connections Ministries, Chicago

Oct 23: 08 Buick LaCrosse CXL; To: Elmhurst CRC

Oct 26: 03 Ford Taurus SE; To: New Community Church, Dolton

Oct 27: 03 Chevy Trailblazer LS, 2WD; To: Grace Baptist Church, Kankakee

Nov 10: 04 Nissan Altima 3.5 SE; To: St Mary Assumption Parish, Coal City

Nov 13: 93 Ford 15-Pass Church Van; To: New Vision MB Church, Kankakee

Nov 17: 05 Chevy Cobalt LS; To: Painted Door Church, Chicago

### DONATIONS NEEDED!

We have many more applications than cars available at this time. Please consider helping with a car or cash donation to this important care-giving and outreach ministry of OPCRC.

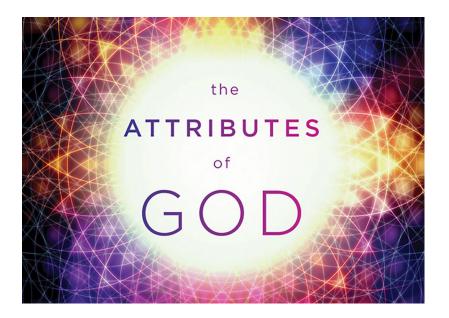
Our car ministry is the best choice for people looking to donate a vehicle. This is because we distribute the vehicle to needy families.

If you donate your car to a non-profit agency that inspects, repairs, and distributes the vehicle to a needy family, (such as our car ministry) you will receive a percentage of the vehicles fair market value (referred to as the private party value) as a charitable tax deduction.

### HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLOVED?

You can be a part of God's plan for someone in need of transportation!

Please take some "Vehicle Donations Needed" promotional cards and pass them around to neighbors, friends, and co-workers, to help us spread the word about our need for donations. Look for these white promo cards on the information center counter.



### SUNDAY ADULT ED CLASS CONTINUES "ATTRIBUTES OF GOD" STUDY

The adult education class is a little over halfway through the study by Steve Lawson on "The Attributes of God." This thought provoking study has looked at how a biblical understanding of God's attributes impacts the way that people see themselves and other people. Some of the attributes studied so far have been:

- The Aseity of God His self-existence and how a Christian would explain this to someone
- The Spirituality of God Identifying God as a Spirit
- The Sovereignty of God His kingship and authority that transcends space and time, while nothing is outside of His scope
- The Holiness of God His separation from creation as the infinitely superior one and His absolute moral purity

If you would like to see any or all of these lectures but cannot attend the class, you can view them on YouTube. Simply type in "Steve Lawson, Attributes of God."

Some of the remaining attributes to be studied include God's love, wrath, goodness, grace, wisdom, truthfulness, and immutability. Feel free to join the class at any time. Class meets in the youth center during the Sunday school hour, 9:40-10:30. Remaining dates are December 2, 19, and 16, all Sundays in January, and February 3 and 10.

### MEN OF A-CHORD CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Come celebrate the Christmas season with song! The Men of A-Chord cordially invites you to join them in "A Festival of Nine Lessons in Carols for Christmastide" on Saturday, December 15, at 7:00 pm at Thorn Creek Reformed Church of South Holland. Come join the singing with the carols and songs of the season celebrating Christ's birth! Justin Rich is the director, Beverly Hoitsma is the pianist, and Nancy Venema is the organist. Betsy Archer will be with us this year as soprano soloist. A free-will offering will be taken.

## IRON SHARPENS IRON MEN'S CONFERENCE COMING TO OPCRC

**Save the date!** Iron Sharpens Iron will be back this year on February 16. The keynote speakers this year are Kenny Luck and Larry Jackson.

Kenny Luck, Leadership Pastor at Crossline Church in Laguna Hills, CA, is an award-winning author of 20 books geared toward men. He is a trusted expert on men's issues and writes the "Every Man" column for the *Christian Post*, addressing men's issues and current events.

Larry Jackson is currently serving as the regional Bishop for the Fellowship of International Churches. He is the founder and president of *True Value of a Woman* movement.

Men ages 13 and up are invited to this equipping conference. Visit focalpointministries.net for info.

## CEDAR LAKE MINISTRIES CONCERT SERIES

Cedar Lake Ministries is having a Merry and Bright Christmas Concert Series on December 7 and 8. Each concert will begin at 6 p.m. with an exquisite buffet dinner, dessert, and a wonderful concert.

The Tribute Quartet, a premier musical entity in the Southern Gospel arena, will perform on Friday evening; Mark Bishop, an award-winning singer, leading Gospel songwriter, and producer, will perform on Saturday.

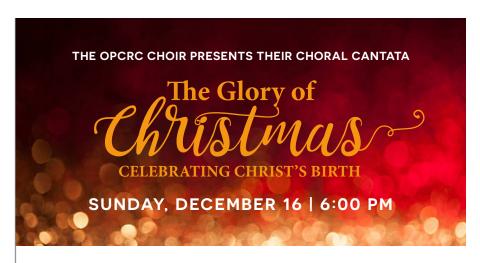
Purchase your tickets today by calling 219-374-5941 or by visiting www.cedarlakeministries.org. Groups welcome! Please join us this year as we celebrate our Savior's birth through story and song.

Proceeds will support the lifechanging work of Cedar Lake Ministries.



#### NEW MARRIAGE CLASS COMING IN JANUARY TO ADULT ED

A 6-week marriage class for singles or marrieds will be starting January 6 during Adult Education. Details coming soon!



"And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." -Isaiah 40:5

n Sunday, December 16, the OPCRC Choir will present the wonderful cantata, "The Glory of Christmas," during the 6:00 pm service. Through narration and song, we will joyfully proclaim the sweeping saga of the story of salvation. The King of Glory sent His son to be the Messiah - He became one of us, so that we might become one with Him - for His Glory!

It was prophesied that the glory of the Lord shall be revealed; and God is faithful to His Word. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light! The long awaited Messiah came! Once, in royal David's city, the Word became flesh. We rejoice in the wonder and the mystery of the incarnation. Jesus, our Savior, came to live among us so that we might live eternally with Him. This message of hope is for all peoples and nations and tribes and tongues.

The prophets foretold His coming, Mary bore the child, the angels announced his birth, the shepherds came to see and went to tell, and the wise men came with gifts to worship. What will we do? We will rejoice in hope and continue to prepare the way of the Lord, shining the light of the gospel into this dark world.

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. The Lord said so. He is coming again! Are you ready? Keep your lamps trimmed and burning! Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King. Every knee will bow down in worship. O come, let us adore Him. Every tongue will confess him: Christ, the Lord. Glory to God alone!

## **Orland Park Church Family News**



#### **SYMPATHY**

We extend our sympathy to **Joanna and Fred De Ruiter** as they mourn the loss of Joanna's brother, Marvin Bruxvoort, who passed away on November 13 in Fort Collins, Colorado.

We extend our sympathy to **Nadine and Bill Iwema** as they mourn the loss of Nadine's brother-in-law, Russell Swayn, who passed away on November 23.

#### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please remember these people in prayer who are recovering from recent hospitalizations, who are shut-ins, or who are dealing with other health problems.

Jessie Alderden	Harlan Fissel	Ray Iwema	Al Siegers
Jim Boerema	Lou Haan	Jim Kallas	Terry Vander Laan
Sharon Boss	Betty Hofstra	Rich Oost	Jim Venhuizen
Jim Bulthuis	Bob Hofstra	Erling Ouwerkerk	Marv Vis
Richard Dykstra	Marv Hooker	George Schaaf	

To request prayer or give thanks for answered prayers, please send your request by email to prayer@opcrc.org or contact the church office at (708) 532-4900.

#### **ADVENT DEVOTIONALS**

Family devotions and Bible readings for the Advent season are available at the information center and on the Sunday School table in hallway by the classrooms. Pick one up now so you can prepare a special time of devotions for your family during this Christmas season!

Prepare Your Heart: Starting December 3, World Renew and the CRC Office of Social Justice will distribute free email devotionals during Advent. Don't let Christmas presents overtake the Christmas Presence. Sign up to receive reflections on this year's theme, Holy Impatience, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday through Christmas Day. The series will explore doing justice in a world that belongs to God, a world where so many are both celebrating glimpses of the kingdom and eagerly yearning for it. Go to crcna.org/advent to sign up today!

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

#### **Bernice Schaver**

84 years December 7

#### Mel Dokter

86 years December 9

#### **Louis Ouwerkerk**

87 years December 11

#### Mary Hooker

88 years December 13

#### Blanche Staal

82 years December 16

#### John DeBoer

99 years December 20

#### **Mavis Wasil**

83 years December 21

## **Orland Park Church Family News**



#### THANK YOU, OPCRC!

We are grateful for the care and concern of our church family. We so appreciated your prayers, cards, visits, and expressions of sympathy upon the death of our dear mom, Shirley Vroom. While we will miss her presence here, we rejoice that she is now and forevermore in the presence of her Lord and Savior.

-Jim and Carol Vroom

Thank you to all those that prayed for me and sent cards, also, wishing me well. I'm glad I'm a part of the family of God.

-Rich Dykstra

Thank you to everyone for the many cards, prayers, phone calls and words of encouragement as I continue to be tested and treated for my existing blood disorder. It's a blessing to be part of a caring church.

-Marvin Vis

Dear church family, Bob and I would like to tell each of you, thank you for your many prayers, cards, calls, and for the meals you have provided for our family. You have provided us with strength to stay at the task, and encouragement to keep going in the direction that God has guided us or to make a u-turn in a new direction. Bob continues on a clinical trial in Bethesda, MD. We give thanks to God for all he has done! Thank you for all the prayers for my Dad, James Z. Richardson. He is 96 years old and in congestive heart failure; he will soon be with our Lord and Savior. He uses his prayer shawl constantly. His bedspread is too heavy and the prayer shawl is comfortable and comforting, as he is reminded of God's love and the prayers of his people. My sister, who lost her husband unexpectedly in February from a heart attack, is very grateful for her prayer shawl! They, along with Bob, are constantly reminded of God's care and the prayers of our church. Thank you for your love and care! Bob's prayer shawl surrounds his recliner as he sits in it daily.

-Bob and Betty Hofstra

A huge thank you to our wonderful church family for all your prayers, cards, and words of support and encouragement during Rich's surgery and recovery. You have once again supported us through another medical issue. It's been a slow and, at times, difficult process and thankfully he is doing quite well now. The vascular leg surgery was successful and restored blood flow through the leg down into the foot. Thank you, Pastor Dan, for your supportive visits and phone calls. All were very much appreciated. And thank you to our elder, Owen Huizenga, for his many calls of concern. We thank you also for the cares and show of sympathy in the loss of Karen's brother, Tom Mulder. Life would be a lonely existence in times of need without our Lord and very loving and caring church family. We can't imagine getting through this if we had to face our difficult trials without all your love and support. Our love and appreciation to all - thank you.

-Rich and Karen Oost

#### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Ray & Lee Dekker

December 2 52 years

Earl & Ruth Engh

December 4 64 years

Pastor Gerry & Carol Erffmeyer

December 27 50 years

**Bill & Andrea Seeman** 

December 27 15 years

#### CALVIN SEMINARY DIG PROGRAM

Dig is a summer program hosted at Calvin Seminary that helps youth uncover their future by exploring their callings while enriching and deepening their faith. By the end of the program, each student will leave with a clearer sense of their gifts and skills and an understanding of how God can use them to meet the needs of the world. This summer's program takes place July 8 - 27, 2019. To nominate a student or to apply yourself, visit dig.calvinseminary.edu.

## **DECEMBER 2018**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
are due oi	n <b>Sunday, Dece</b> nder Plaats at d	ery issue of the Oember 16. Please enise@opcrc.org	e send to			1
Choir, Sunday School, Adult Education 9:45 am Missions 4:30 Potluck: 4:30 Carol Sing Service: 6:00 YG Christmas Party 7:00 pm	Men's BSF 7:00 pm	Prayer Group (sanctuary) 7:00 pm	Men's Prayer 5 Breakfast - 6:30 Cadets 6:30 pm GEMS Christmas Party 6:30 pm Wife of Noble Character 6:30 pm Search Comm 7:00 pm	Coffee time with Pastor Derek 9:00 am	7	Kids' Program Practice 9:00 am
Choir, Sunday School, Adult Education 9:45 am  Kids' Christmas Program 6:00 pm  God's Posse 7:00 pm	<b>10</b> Men's BSF 7:00 pm	Prayer Group (sanctuary) 7:00 pm Congregational Meeting 7:00 pm Council Mtg. 7:30 pm	Men's Prayer Breakfast - 6:30 Wife of Noble Character 6:30 pm Cadets Christmas Party 6:30 pm Search Comm 7:00 pm	Car Ministry 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	14	Choir Rehearsal 8:00 am Christmas Baskets 8:30 am
Small Group Leaders 9:45 am Choral Christmas Cantata 6:00 pm	<b>17</b> Men's BSF 7:00 pm	Prayer Group (sanctuary) 7:00 pm	Men's Prayer Breakfast - 6:30 Preschool Program 10:00 am	20	21	22
23 Lessons & Carols Candlelight Service 6:00 pm  30 Old Year's Service 6:00 pm	24 31	25 Christmas Day Worship Service 10:00 am	Men's Prayer Breakfast - 6:30 Coffee & Comfort 1:00 pm	27	28	29