



DECEMBER 2019

THE **Outlook**



A NEWSLETTER OF ORLAND PARK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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**SPECIAL
CHRISTMAS
SERVICES**

Please join us for the following
special services:

- ★ December 8 at 6:00 pm
Kids' Christmas Program
- ★ December 15 at 6:00 pm
Choir Christmas Cantata
- ★ December 22 at 6:00 pm
Lessons and Carols Service
- ★ December 24 at 4:30 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight
- ★ December 25 at 10:00 am
Christmas Day Service
- ★ December 29 at 6:00 pm
Old Year's Service



Orland Park
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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December 1: Providence Life Services | providenceliveservices.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 8: Calvin University | calvin.edu

Calvin University 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. Calvin 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 15: 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 22: 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 29: Friendship Ministries

Friendship Ministries is an organization whose vision is to help people with and without intellectual disability growing deeper in their relationship with God and with each other in community together. Their mission is to provide resources that support faith formation and congregational inclusion with individuals with intellectual disability. Friendship Ministries believes we must make the gifts of all

people visible so that we may participate mutually in our interdependent family. We must nurture the spiritual, social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development of all persons so we can be faithful stewards of the gifts given by God and may respond gratefully to his love and we must remove all barriers to accomplish this goal.

PRESCHOOL CHILDREN CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING

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

M/W/F 4-year-old class

Maggie Supergirl
Ben C..... my big book of Airplanes
Charlottemy dog Buddy
Zachary.....Marshall
Lena my family and my dog Lilly
William Ella and Juju
Noah..... my family
Holly..... my two sisters
Avery..... my unicorn stuffed animal
Tyler my family
Eva my family
Mackenzie my family
Emmett..... my toy jet airplane
Thomas.....my sister Leah
Dominic..... my family
Annie my sister and my family
Lydia Emma's blankie
Katherine..... my dog
Robbie..... my dog Sassy
Lukas..... my mommy and daddy
Jocelyn my devotion book
Samuel..... my stuffed tiger
Alexis my blanket
Elliot.....my football
Blake Godzilla, king of the monsters

T/Th 3-year-old class

Genevieve.....my baby brother Rafael
Oliviamy penguin and my Hello Kitty
Austin police officers
Isaac..... my family
Leah D my panda
Ben E my family
Rae my stuffed giraffe
Leah G my family
Nathan..... my family
Ethan..... my family
Juliet my stuffed swan
Neala all kinds of ice cream
Eden my blankie
Jeremiah my stuffed puppy Duke
Lily..... my birthday crown
Ben S..... my blankie



On Monday and Tuesday, November 25 and 26, we held Thanksgiving celebrations with mini feasts for each class. The children invited many family members and friends. They told the story of the first Thanksgiving in America by singing the songs they learned about the Pilgrims, Native Americans, and turkeys. They also sang the songs that praise God for all His blessings. One of our favorites is...

*Thank you, God, for making me,
Eyes and nose, hands and feet,
Ears to hear, and lips to sing,
And a heart that beats for You!
A rum-pum-pum, a rum-pum-pum...
And a heart that beats for You!*

Our mini-feasts included foods that remind us of Thanksgiving - turkey, applesauce, popcorn, grapes, and turkey cookies! We are thankful to God for our school and for all we can learn there. The preschool staff is also thankful to God for each of our preschool children and their families!

MOM SQUAD

-Mary Catherine Baas

MOMS DISCIPLING MOMS

Have you heard about the new ministry for moms at our church? Mom Squad started this fall at OPCRC. We are a Christian fellowship group for moms of young kids that meets once a month. Motherhood can sometimes be lonely, tiring, or isolating. In today's society, moms often fall into comparison or feelings of inadequacy. Mom



Squad is here for moms to encourage each other in raising our families to love the Lord.

Our group has moms from our church and the community. The first Friday of every month we get together to



share a brunch-style meal, listen to a speaker, and discuss in small groups. Each small group is co-led by a mom of littles and a mentor mom. This month Lori Kamp led us in a talk about thankfulness and how to foster a sense of gratitude in our families. She challenged us to "Count Our Blessings" even in difficult circumstances. We also learned some fun and practical ways practice thankfulness.

If you are a mom of young kids looking for friendship, we would love for you to join us! If you're a seasoned mom and want to get involved for this year or next, talk to Courtney Stryker, Rachel Smit, or Mary Catherine Baas. We always have a need for childcare volunteers!



HANDEL'S MESSIAH CONCERT

Illiana Oratorio Society cordially invites you to attend their annual presentation of Handel's Messiah. The concert will be on Sunday December 1, 2019, at 2:00 pm at First Christian Reformed Church of South Holland, IL located at 16248 South Park Ave., South Holland, IL. Please join us for the Christmas season as we present this marvelous work to God's praise!.

IRON SHARPENS IRON MEN'S CONFERENCE COMING TO OPCRC

Save the date! Iron Sharpens Iron will be back this year on February 22. The keynote speakers this year are Eric Ludy and Stephen Michael Newby.

Pastor Eric Ludy is the bestselling author of over twenty books with well over a million copies in print. He is the senior pastor of The Church at Ellerslie. His weekly sermons are heard by tens of thousands of people across the globe, and his short films on the Christian life have been viewed by millions.

Stephen Michael Newby is a worship leader, vocalist, songwriter, composer, and publisher of many different musical styles and traditions.

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



-by Carol Vroom, Choir Director

"Do you feel the world is broken?"

When I first heard the lyric in this Andrew Peterson song, my answer was a resounding, "YES"! I do! I do feel that the world is broken! Then, came the next question: "Do you feel the shadows deepen?" Again, I do...the world is filled with broken-ness, darkness, and sin. Then, another: "But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through?" Ah...we do. Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness! That's what we celebrate at Christmas! God sent his Son!

Such is the love of God and the theme of this year's choir cantata, "Hallelujah Jesus is Born!" It is a wonder-filled reflection on the birth of Jesus. It is filled with carols and songs of adoration and praise to our Savior, the King of eternity, who pierced the darkness, and came as a baby in the manger to save us from our sins.

That Andrew Peterson song helps us to frame Christmas in the light of all eternity. It is the final song of the cantata. In it, he echoes the question of Revelation 5: "Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll? The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave, He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave. Is He worthy, is He worthy of all blessing and honor and glory? Is He worthy of this?" YES, YES, YES, he is! Hallelujah! He is!

Come and see who God is. Come and see what God has done. Come and worship - worship Christ, the newborn King! Then, let's proclaim the good news and show the world who Jesus is!

G.A.L.S Fun Future Events

December 9: Walnut Room at Macy's in Chicago - we will take train to Chicago, there is a short walk to Macy's. Details to follow.

January 15: Lunch at Cooper's Hawk - Noon; RSVP to Phyllis DeVries

January 26: Sunday brunch TBA

February event: TBA

February 23: Sunday brunch TBA

March 5: John Denver musical at Munster Performing Arts. RSVP to Bev Leerar. Dinner after the play at a local restaurant. More details to follow!

March 22: Sunday brunch TBA

April 18: Ladies' Day at Olivet Nazarene University - 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Details to follow. Tickets are \$30 for the day - \$10 for lunch. Will be taking reservations early February.

April 26: Sunday brunch TBA

Please check your email; we will be sending you details of each event!

MEN OF A-CHORD CONCERT

Come celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season with song! The Men of A-Chord cordially invites you to join them in their Christmas Candlelight Musicales on Saturday, December 14, at 7:00 pm at Oak Glen United Reformed Church (2244 Indiana Ave., Lansing). 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, Nancy Venema is the organist. Betsy Archer will be our soprano soloist. A free-will offering will be taken.

Book Review: "Praying Like Jesus"

DISCOVERING THE PATTERN OF GODLY PRAYER

A book review by Grace Kamp

Using the example of Jesus' high priestly prayer in John 17 and other prayers in the Bible, Julie-Allyson Ieron leads the reader through a pattern of praying like Jesus. The author's first prayer was for her own spiritual need for growth. Based on Paul's writing in Ephesians 1:18 she prayed, "that the eyes of my heart would be enlightened." She then goes on to remind us of Jesus' high priestly prayer in John 17.

In this prayer, Jesus begins with "Father." The author explains how we are adopted as His children because of His son, Jesus. We, like Jesus, should center our attention first and foremost on God's glory. In Isaiah 6:1, the prophet describes God's glory as he saw the Lord sitting on a lofty throne and the temple being filled with his glory. Isaiah then fell down in worship as we should also. From this we can also

know of the majesty of the one to whom we pray and we can carry our every concern to His loving arms.

The author goes on to encourage believers to submit to God's will in all of their prayers following the example of Jesus submitting to his Father in everything. This will help us acknowledge God the Father's hand in all the seasons of our life. Whatever time we are in, we can pray that we might be used for the praise of His glory. This will also help us recognize that God has authority over all people and circumstances.

Ultimately, Jesus is the one who has revealed the Father to those whom the Father has given him out of this world. And because of Jesus, we can know the Father and can come to the Father in prayer now.

Orland Park Church Family News



THANK YOU, OPCRC!

In July I had another back operation. Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated. A special thanks to Pastor Dan and Jim Gross and Curt Marcus for the encouragement.

Fondly, Carol Van Kuiken

Thanks to my church family and pastors for all the love and concern shown to me through my recent surgery and ongoing treatments. Your prayers, cards, and words of encouragement meant a lot to me. I am also very thankful that the Lord has given me strength to face each day of my journey.

-Louetta Voss

Dear people of OPCRC,

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, meals, and visits for Marv during his long illness and also the words of comfort and sympathy after his passing. Thank you, Pastor Roeda, for your visits and phone calls. It's great to be part of a loving and caring church.

-Gerry, Gary & Kim Hooker, and the rest of the family

Dear Orland Church Family,

Again I say there are no words to express our thanks for all the prayers, cards, and meals. Thank you everyone. Every prayer has been felt. Every card and meal have been enjoyed over and over. My mouth is still a bit sore, but way better than it was. I'm still very weak. It is sad to leave our church family.

This is has been our lives for more than 70 years starting in Roseland. This is something that God is calling us to do, and we must follow. We will miss our church family greatly.

Our new address is: 10700 Park Place, Unit #2209, St. John, IN 46373

Love to all, Bob and Arlene Hoekstra

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Jim Boerema	Liam Du Bois	Jim Kallas	Carol Van Kuiken
Mary Lou Bos	Bob Hofstra	Betty Loerop	Bob Van Lonkhuyzen
Wayne Decker	Arlene Hoekstra	Jacob Rynberk	Terry Vander Laan
Jan Deckinga	George Hoving	George Schaaf	Jim Venhuizen
Len Donofrio	Ruth Huisenga	Bill Schaafsma	Marv Vis
Doris Doorn	Joyce Ipema	Karen Schultz	Louetta Voss

To request prayer or give thanks for answered prayers, please send your request by email to prayer@opcrc.org or contact the church office.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Bernice Schaver

85 years | December 7

Mel Dokter

87 years | December 9

Louis Ouwerkerk

88 years | December 11

Blanche Staal

83 years | December 16

John DeBoer

100 years | December 20

Mavis Wasil

84 years | December 21

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Ray & Lee Dekker

December 2 | 53 years

Dave & Donna Goesel

December 2 | 30 years

Earl & Ruth Eng

December 4 | 65 years

Rich & Lori Vander Velde

December 8 | 35 years

Pastor Gerry & Carol Erffmeyer

December 27 | 51 years