

### Heritage CRC

2857 South 11th Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
(just south from Stadium Drive)

Phone: 269.372.3830  
Prayer Line 372.3830 x 5  
Fax: 269.372.5939  
churchoffice@heritagecrc.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP  
@ 9:30 AM (Nursery provided)  
SUNDAY EVENING @ 5:00 PM

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:  
Wednesday at noon. Call,  
leave a note, or e-mail to  
churchoffice@heritagecrc.org.

Summer OFFICE HOURS:  
Wednesday : 8:30 am—1:30 pm  
Thursday : 8:30 am—12:30 pm

### Volunteer Schedule...

**NURSERY:** Dec 18: Tara Razenberg & Kim Bruinwood  
Dec 25: Dorothy Broekhuizen & Glen Wagner

**COFFEE SERVERS:** Dec 18: Phil & Barb Nieboer, Jack & Evie Wenke, Bob & Barb Razenberg Dec 25/Jan1: Rick & Donna Lingbeek, Norbert & Joy Hegelmann, Gary & Dorothy Broekhuizen

**HEARTLAND HEALTHCARE CENTER**  
(Services begin at 3:30 pm & last approximately 30 minutes)  
December 18: Glen Wagner & Judy Wieringa  
December 25: Harold Triezenberg

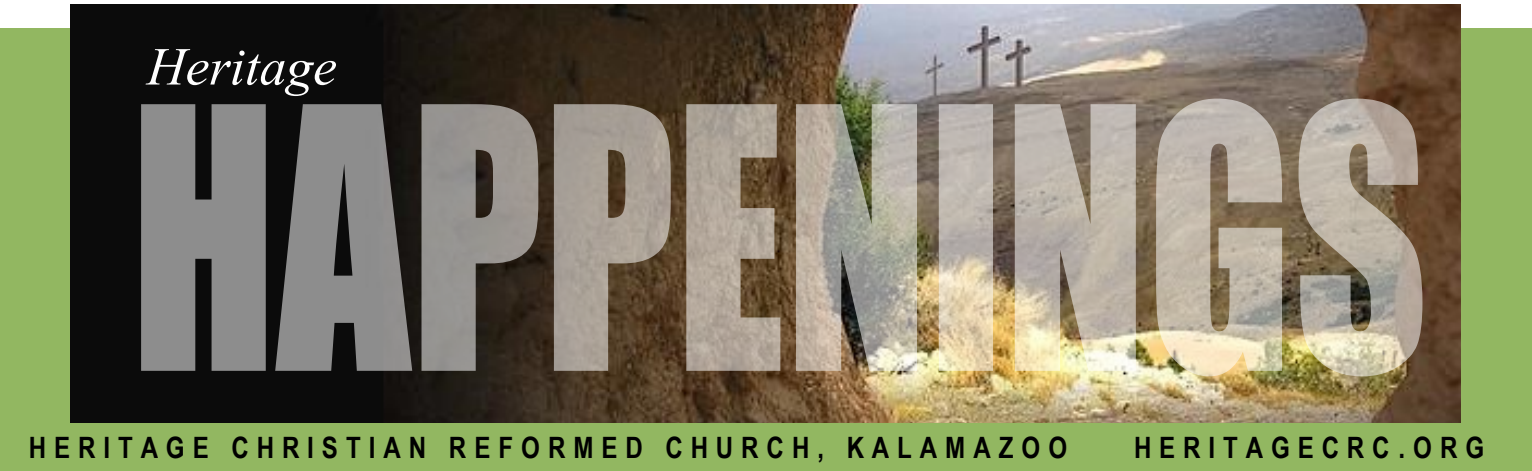
**PRAYER LINE MINISTRY:** Glen Wagner/Judy Fletcher

**PRAYER EMAIL MINISTRY:** prayerline@heritagecrc.org

**SERVICE MINISTRY:** December: Gretchen Vanders

**MULTIMEDIA MINISTRY:** Dec 18: Paul Booden Dec 25: Zach Razenberg

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
18 ADVENT #4 9:30 AM Pastor Simon “Where Is He Coming?” Micah 5:2; Revelation 21:1-4  5 pm Pastor Simon Candlelight Service	19	20 Shepherding Elders Meeting 3 pm	21	22	23	24
25 CHRISTMAS DAY 9:30 am Pastor Simon “Why Did Christ Come?” Luke 2:8-14; Romans 8:18-27  No Evening Worship	26	27	28	29	30	31
1 HAPPY NEW YEARS! 9:30 am Pastor Simon “Teach Us to Number Our Days” Psalm 90  No Evening Worship	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 9:30 am Pastor Simon “Lifestyles of the Rich & Foolish” Esther 1  5 pm Pastor Simon “The Order of Salvation: Election” Ephesians 1:3-14	9	10 Coffee Break Bible Study 9:30—11 am  Admin Board Meeting 7 pm	11	12	13	14



Volume #15, Issue 48

December 18, 2016

### What’s up in Worship



**Advent: Then & Now:** The Season of Advent invites us to celebrate Christ’s first coming but also to long for His return. Christ has come and someday Christ will come again! Join us in this season of memory and hope that recounts what God has done and anticipates what God will do someday.

December 18 ~ Where is He Coming?  
December 25 ~ Why Did Christ Come?

Please plan to join us for our annual *Candlelight Service TONIGHT* at 5 pm.

### The Book of Esther: God’s Silent Sovereignty

Where is God in the midst of chaos and uncertainty? Is He there? Does He care? We often ask these questions when we encounter events that seem to contradict what we believe about God. In the book of Esther, an all-powerful, perfect and ever-present God seems hidden yet the message is timeless; God’s sovereignty calls people in every age to Himself even when we do not know what He is up to in this world. Plan to join us on Sunday, January 8, as Pastor Simon begins a sermon series on the book of Esther.

### Celebrations

**Birthdays**  
Melissa Piontek ~ December 18  
Ruthie Brown ~ December 20  
Esther Manni ~ December 20 ~ 85 years young!  
Margaret Luteyn ~ December 21—98 years young!  
Dorothy VanDenBerg ~ December 21  
Judy Fletcher ~ December 22

### Congregational Meeting Notes...

In spite of the weather, a spirit of gratitude prevailed at last week’s Annual Congregational Meeting. In addition to unanimously approving the 2017 budget, there were updates on our volunteer ministries as well as expressions of appreciation for these ministries and for our pastor. It was also noted that since five years have passed since Pastor’s Simon’s sabbatical, Council is currently discussing a requested sabbatical this summer. More details will be provided in the near future.

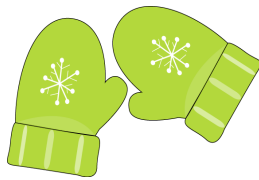
### Ministry

**Heartland HealthCare Center** schedules for January 1—June 25, 2017 can be found in your mailboxes this morning if you are a part of this ministry.

**Coffee Server schedule** for December 25—April 9, 2017 can be found in your mailboxes this morning if you are a part of this ministry.

**NO PRAYER (P.U.S.H.) MEETING** this coming Wednesday, December 21 as posted earlier. Please plan to join us again in January, 2017.

Ministry Continued...



Coffee Break Ladies are again collecting *winter coats, hats & mittens for all ages*. A box for this purpose is in the Narthex. Please remember those who are without these necessities during the cold winter months. Thank you.

Homebound members...

Cookies and Cards are due today for our homebound members. Please place the cards in the basket at the Information Center and put cookies in the Kitchen. Thank you.

Coffee Break Review

We are a group of about 19 faithful women who come together every Tuesday to study God’s Word and fellowship together. We have 3 members who are from the community. We always have a lively discussion.

This year we are studying Samuel; we just finished First Samuel and will study Second Samuel in the new year. These are the “Discover Your Bible” lessons from Faith Alive and produced for Coffee break. In the past we have studied lessons by Philip Yancey, some lessons produced by Saddleback Church, and we have really enjoyed Ray VanderLaan’s series.

We have a number of ongoing Service projects, including collecting funds for Alternatives and also baby and toddler clothing (in the cradle in the Fellowship Hall). We often collect winter clothes (as we are right now) and for our Christmas project, instead of exchanging gifts, we gave money for an individual in need. We always welcome new members, so come join us!

Missions & Missionaries...

Loaves & Fishes wish list:  
**December:** Canned Meat  
*Please place your donations in the grocery cart in the fellowship hall*


**Emails or Letters to Missionaries...**  
Dan & Irene VanderBerg ~ Jerry An  
Dave & Kathy VanderMeer ~ David Heath  
Herm & Gretchen Vanders ~ Joseph Mutebi

*If you do not have a copy of our missionaries’ email addresses, both their most current newsletter and email addresses are on the Missionary table next to the mailboxes*

Offering Schedule

Dec 18	General Fund: Faith Promise Loose Change: Benevolence Fund
Dec 25	General Fund: Building Fund Loose Change: Kzoo Gospel Mission
Jan 1	General Fund: TBA Loose Change: TBA
Jan 8	General Fund: TBA Loose Change: TBA

**Offerings** (for December 11)  
Benevolence Fund ~ \$100.00  
Christian Education Assistance ~ \$25.00  
Faith Promise ~ \$110.00  
General Fund ~ \$5,621.00  
Kalamazoo Gospel Mission ~ \$223.00  
Ministry Shares ~ \$196.00



**Tithes & Offerings:** January 1, 2017 marks the end of the year for financial gifts that will be included in the 2016 summary of tithes and offerings to Heritage Church. Contributions received by January 1, 2017 will be included on your summary for 2016. In January the deacons will place this summary in the mailbox of each member for whom a report is available. Questions? Please contact one of the deacons.

Requested Announcements

**Coffee Break Training Reminder:** You can still sign up (through December 30) for the Coffee Break Leadership training workshop to be held at Milwood Community Church from 9-1 on Thursday, January 5. This training would also be valuable for women in other Bible study leadership roles. Contact Terri Scheffers at 377-7704 if you are interested.

**The Voices of Victory,** a male quartet from the Hudsonville, Michigan area will present their annual New Year’s Eve Concert at Hudsonville Reformed Church (3950 Highland Drive, Hudsonville) on Saturday, December 31. The concert begins at 8 pm and will last until 11 pm. We will be joined by the Sacred Harmonies Quartet and the Covenant Quartet. Coffee and cookies will be served. There is no admission charge; an offering will be taken for Georgetown Harmony Homes. All are welcome to attend. The concert will be the same format as usual—come and go whenever you want to—OR stay for the entire evening of praise to God!

for unto us a child is born, unto us  
*a son is given*  
AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER  
— and his name shall be called —

**WONDERFUL  
COUNSELOR, THE MIGHTY GOD  
THE EVERLASTING FATHER  
the prince of  
PEACE**

Isaiah 9:6



**Building Hope Campaign for the Gospel Mission:** There is a new campaign launched to try and raise awareness and funds to support a new women and children’s shelter being built for the Gospel Mission. Please go to [www.kzooobuildinghope.org](http://www.kzooobuildinghope.org) for more information. Let’s all pitch in to help show Christ’s love to these women and children in need. *We will supporting this endeavor with our Christmas Day Special offering.*



and  
suddenly  
there was with  
an angel  
a multitude of  
the heavenly host  
praising God  
and saying  
Glory to God  
in the highest, and on earth  
peace, goodwill towards  
men  
Luke 2  
13-14

**Winter Weather Cancellation:** In the event of severe winter weather and Sunday services are cancelled, closing information will be posted on Channel 3 WWMT as well as WOODTV 8 at least 1-hour prior to the worship service start time. You can also sign up to receive text or email alerts from Channel 3, WWMT:

- Go to WWMT website.
- Click on School/Business/Church Closing Alerts.
- Then sign up to receive texts on your phone or email alerts for Heritage Christian Reformed Church.