

Soul Food:

A Weekly Update of Christ's Reformed UCC

"Growing people of faith who live in Jesus, love one another and bear abundant fruit"

January 15, 2019

Celebrations

If you have celebrations in your life, we want to celebrate with you! Celebrations take many forms: new babies, marriages, accomplishments at work, a child's successes, transitions in life, just plain old good news. Please contact the church office (crc1854@myactv.net) and share celebrations with us.

- Thankful for the beautiful snow!
- What are your celebrations? May you give God praise and honor and glory for them!

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the pastoral search process and team
- For the ATS fifth floor, that God would find just the right tenant to use the space to his glory and to meet our city's needs

Connections

- **Upcoming Services:**
 - January 20th: Dr Hodge will preach "Extravagant Abundance" from Isaiah 62:1-5.
 - January 27th: **Consecration Sunday.** Bring your commitment cards to the altar. "The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me" is Dr. Hodge's theme from Luke 4 and Psalm 19.
 - February 3rd: "That They May All Be One" is Dr. Hodge's theme from John 17 and 1 Corinthians 1. Communion will be served.
- **Tidings Deadline is this Friday!** If you would like to place an article in this month issue, please send to the church office.

- **Men's Fellowship Breakfast** – We invite all men of Christ's Reformed to bring a friend and join us for breakfast Saturday, January 19th at 8:30 am in the Social Hall.
- **Youth Fellowship** will meet Sunday, January 20th from 6 – 8 pm. We will see you in the youth room! Come with hungry bellies, bring a friend, and let's have some fun!
- **An Evening Prayer Study:** Everyone in the church family is invited to a bi-weekly time of prayer and study: the next one will be Tuesday, January 22nd at 6 pm in the Strunk Library.
- **Consecration Sunday is Sunday, January 27th.** Please be praying about what your pledge to God for 2019 will be. Why pledge? Because it is a practice that helps us give “first fruits” to God, not leftovers, which is generally what we tend to offer God if we aren't intentional about our giving. One doesn't need to pledge in order to be intentional about giving, but it does help! Making that private commitment at the altar helps us all to be more conscientious about what we give. Be looking for your card in your mailbox soon.
- **New Member Sunday, February 10, 2019** – If you are interested in becoming a member of Christ's Reformed Church, please see Dr. Hodge for more information.
- **The Lectionary Reflection Group** continues to meet on Wednesday mornings at 11:00 am to study and reflect upon the Lectionary for the following Sunday. All are invited.
- Our **REACH Breakfast** dates for the remainder of season are as follows: January 27, February 24 and March 24. You are welcome to invite others to serve with us. The more people there are to interact with the residents and keep them company with warm conversation while they're with us, the better. Let's really show them Jesus 🍷
- **Texas Roadhouse Gift Card Fundraiser** – Support our youth mission trip by purchasing a gift card to Texas Roadhouse! See either Dave or Sophia Bedard for your \$15, \$25 or \$50 card. These cards have no expiration date so it would be a perfect Christmas gift.
- **Altar Flowers** – The Worship Team needs your help again in donations of altar flowers. To place altar or chancel flowers for 2019, we are requesting you sign up for the week of your choice by completing an order form and turning it in to the church office or by signing the altar flower chart on the Parish House bulletin board. The cost of the flowers will again be \$40.00, and you are asked to pay at the time of ordering.

Food for the Soul

*The message this week comes in two parts, as will the sermon.
Scroll down to page three for the scriptural component.*

Part I: Exploring the Heritage and Ecclesiastical Identity of Christ's Reformed Church

The message this Sunday will be in two parts. First, we will hear the first of a three-part exploration of CRC's heritage and polity. Before the scripture reading we will hear about that part of our heritage which emerges from American *congregationalism*.

To help us explore that heritage, we will read the Kansas City Statement of Faith. In order to provide some doctrinal unity to the large and diverse cluster of congregationalist congregations, this was a statement proclaimed in 1913 by the National Council of Congregational Churches of Christ. I invite you to carefully read the text, with the following questions in mind:

- What parts of this statement of faith are consistent with my own understandings? What parts are inconsistent?
- Which elements of this statement are consistent with the life and practice of CRC? What about the UCC (if you know)?
- Which elements would you like to see highlighted more in the life of the congregation or in the life of the country?

Here is the text:

Kansas City Statement of Faith

Faith

We believe in God the Father,
infinite in wisdom, goodness, and love,
and in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord and Savior,
who for us and for our salvation lived and died and rose again
and liveth evermore,
and in the Holy Spirit,
who taketh of the things of Christ

and revealeth them to us,
renewing, comforting, and inspiring the souls of men.

We are united in striving to know the will of God
as taught in the Holy Scriptures,
and in our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord,
made known or to be made known to us.

We hold it to be the mission of the Church of Christ
to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind,
exalting the worship of the one true God,
and laboring for the progress of knowledge,
the promotion of justice, the reign of peace,
and the realization of human brotherhood.

Depending, as did our fathers, upon the continued guidance
of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth,
we work and pray for the transformation of the world
into the Kingdom of God,
and we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness,
and the life everlasting.

Polity

We believe in the freedom and responsibility
of the individual soul, and the right of private judgment.

We hold to the autonomy of the local church
and its independence of all ecclesiastical control.

We cherish the fellowship of the churches,
united in district, state, and national bodies,
for counsel and cooperation in matters of common concern.

The Wider Fellowship

While affirming the liberty of our churches,
and the validity of our ministry,
we hold to the unity and catholicity of the Church of Christ,
and will unite with all its branches in hearty cooperation;
and will earnestly seek, so far as in us lies,
that the prayer of our Lord for his disciples may be answered,
that they all may be one.

Part II: The Lectionary Scriptures for this Week

After the scriptures, we will try to discern a common thread among all four of the lectionary readings. Those readings are:

- Isaiah 62:1-5
- Psalm 36:5-10
- 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- John 2:1-11

To prepare to hear this message, I invite you to read all four scripture passages and reflect upon them. Try to discern the common thread – there is one, but it is not obvious. It may take some time in prayer and meditation to discern it.

****Like every good meal, I'm better when shared...please forward me to the people in your life!**

If you wish to no longer receive Soul Food, please respond to this e-mail and change the subject line to "UNSUBSCRIBE," but we hope you won't!