

The AMERICANews

of the American Reformed Church
of Hull Iowa



2025

AMERICANews

the American Reformed Church
Hull, Iowa

Vol.35 No. 7
December 2025



In a world built for speed, it is easy to become an anxious, hurried group of people. Yet, this is not how the Lord desired us to live and experience life. Christians have been called to so much more and demonstrate what it looks like to find peace.

This is why this Advent season, leading up to Christmas, we are going through a sermon series titled *"Unhurried Christmas"* together with other churches in the Alliance.

Christmas is meant to be a time to reflect on what Jesus brought with Him when He entered the world in a manger. The angels declared: **"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"** (Luke 2:14)

But often, when Christmas comes, instead of peace on earth, it becomes a time when we are running from place to place, just trying to fit everything into an already busy schedule. Instead of experiencing the meaning of Christmas, we experience burnout with a bow on top. We move so quickly the very peace Christ came to bring becomes something we talk about but rarely touch.

Yet Scripture continually reminds us that peace is not the absence of activity—it is the presence of Christ. True peace does not wait for our calendar to clear or our obligations to shrink. Peace comes when our hearts slow down enough to remember who is Lord over our days.

As Isaiah prophesied long before the angels sang over Bethlehem, the Messiah would be called the "Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). peace is not a seasonal idea; peace is a Person.

To illustrate this, imagine a small lake hidden deep in the mountains. All around it, the winds can howl, storms can rage, and trees can bend beneath the weight of winter. But below the surface of the water, all remains calm. The lake is still because its peace comes from its depth, not its surroundings.

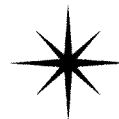
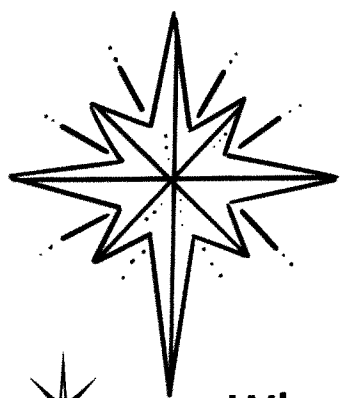
Our lives are often like the weather around that lake—swirling responsibilities, loud expectations, and the constant pressure to be everywhere for everyone. But Christ invites us to live from the depths rather than the surface. He calls us to a stillness rooted not in our circumstances but in His unchanging presence.

Jesus Himself modeled this unhurried peace. He never rushed, never panicked, never lived enslaved to the demands around Him. Even when crowds pressed in, Scripture tells us He would slip away to quiet places to pray (Luke 5:16). He lived with purpose, but never with hurry. And He invites us to learn from Him: **"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"** (Matthew 11:28). Rest is not an escape from life but an invitation into the life Jesus gives.

This Advent, the call of Christ is simple: slow down enough to see Him. Make room in the crowded inns of our hearts for the Savior who brings peace that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7). Set aside a moment each day to be still before Him, to breathe deeply of His grace, and to remember that the Prince of Peace has already come near. And when we do this—when we choose depth over noise, stillness over hurry, presence over pressure—we bear witness to a weary world.

We become people who shine the peace of Christ into places where anxiety has deeply rooted itself. We show that Christmas is not an event to survive, but a Savior to behold. May this season be one where our hearts slow down and our souls awaken to the unhurried peace only Jesus can give.

~Pastor Mark



When they saw the

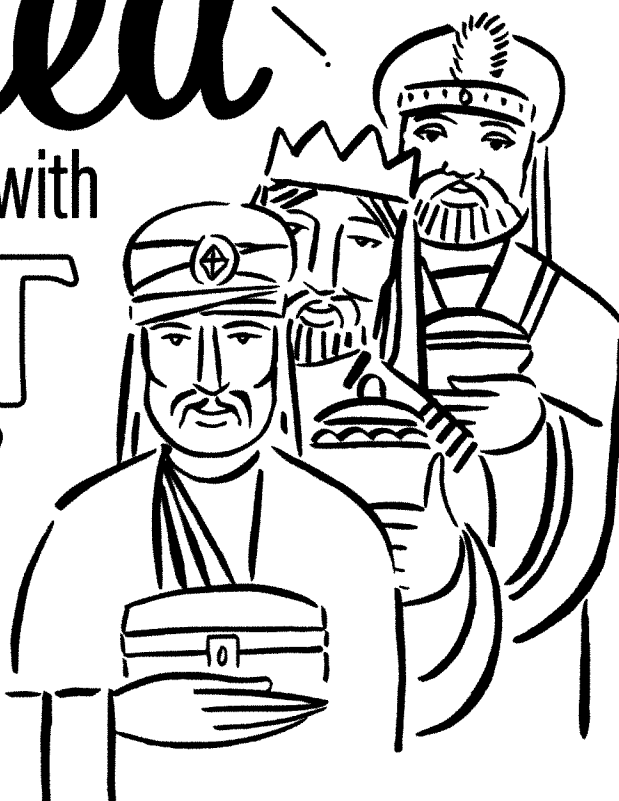
STAR, they

rejoiced

exceedingly with

GREAT
JOY.

Matthew 2:10, ESV



A great way to share the joy of the season!!
The **CHRISTMAS CAROLING PARTY** will be held
on **Wednesday, December 17.**

We will meet at church at **6:00pm** to go caroling
and return to church for refreshments afterwards.

Please bring potluck treats to share. Apple cider and hot chocolate will be
provided.



Take the whole family to share the songs of the season with
Pleasant Acres, the Homestead, the Colony, Aspen Heights & some
homes.

Come for a night of fun and fellowship!



December 3 - Wednesday: Practice Christmas Program the whole time 7-8. (1st-6th Grade)

December 7- Sunday: Practice Christmas Program the whole time 11-11:40.

(dress rehearsal for 3 year olds-Kindergarten)

December 10 - Wednesday: Dress rehearsal for 1st-6th graders only 7-8.

December 14 - Sunday: **Christmas program 10:45!** (Program snow date is December 21)

*Sunday school teachers and Wednesday night leaders,
please plan to be there to help supervise.*

If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Sipma at 470-5894





Christmas Worship Night

Thursday, December 11
6:30-8:00pm

The Grain House
1134 Main St - Hull



Join us for an evening of
MUSIC, COFFEE & FOOD and
CHRISTMAS FUN!



*Music by
American Reformed Church*

**WE HAVE THE BLESSED OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE TO THOSE IN
NEED!!**

**WE ARE FILLING THE BLUE BARRELS IN THE GREAT HALL WITH
NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS FOR THE
SIOUX CITY GOSPEL MISSION.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL BE COLLECTING FOOD DURING THE
OFFERING**



SUNDAY SCHOOL COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

DECEMBER 7 5TH GRADE AND KINDERGARTEN
DECEMBER 14 4TH GRADE AND 1ST GRADE (ALL OTHERS COLLECT QUARTERS)
DECEMBER 21 3RD GRADE AND 2ND GRADE
CHRISTMAS DAY ALL GRADES (THURSDAY)

PROJECTION

DECEMBER 7 Loree Walton
DECEMBER 14 Kaileen Roelofs
DECEMBER 21 Heather Mesman
DECEMBER 21 Mel Reuvers (Candlelight Service)
CHRISTMAS DAY Jacob Gaul
DECEMBER 28 Loree Walton

VIDEO

DECEMBER 7 Laura Woelber
DECEMBER 14 Aisayah Moss
DECEMBER 21 Kaileen Roelofs
DECEMBER 21 Carter Wallenburg (Candlelight Service)
CHRISTMAS DAY Aisayah Moss
DECEMBER 28 Reid Van Voorst

USHERS

DECEMBER 7 Dwayne Hansmann, Galen Breuer
DECEMBER 14 Harlo Vink, Jacob Van Der Wilt
DECEMBER 21 Harlo Vink, Jacob Van Der Wilt
DECEMBER 28 Josh Wissink, Jesse Mesman

NURSERY

DECEMBER 7 Eric Schafer, Merritt Moss, Milana Cercone
DECEMBER 14 Judy Hoogeveen, Kaden Soodsma, Teagan Sipma
DECEMBER 21 Annie Van Der Zwaag, Jacob Gaul, MaKenzie Mesman
DECEMBER 28 Harlo & Sara Vink

**December
Schedules**



Worship With Us

Sunday, December 21
at 6:30pm for our

Candlelight Service



*The LIGHT shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it. -John 1:5 NIV*



Christmas Day Worship

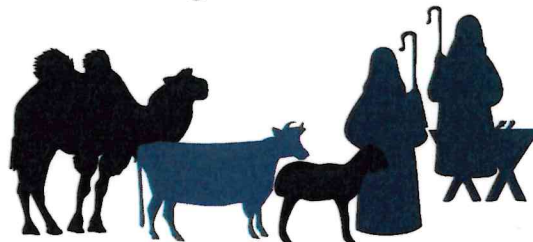
9:30 am

The Word of God became flesh
and lives among us



Join Us

as we, in turn, gather to Worship Him



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

TO BE HELD ON

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH



FOLLOWING THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE!!

*AN OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN FOR LIFEWISE.

THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES.



MAKE PLANS TO
ATTEND THE

DINNER AND AUCTION

TO BE HELD ON
February 4, 2026!

SUPPORT ARC MISSIONS!



DON'T FORGET
TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE
SALES OF THE SEASON!





QUARTER COLLECTION

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

Quarter Sunday is December 14.
Please remember your quarters for
Grace Covenant Ministries Camp!

There will be no Sunday School or Midweek
Programs December 21 through January 3.
Sunday school will resume on January 4 and
midweek programs will resume on January 7.



MISSION TRIP 2026

Grace Covenant Ministries
Annville, Kentucky

July 26–August 1

Only skill required is a willing heart to serve!



NOVEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

by Carolyn Gould

- The next Lord's Supper will be December 7, 2025.
- The next Consistory meeting will be December 15, 2025, with meetings of deacons and elders at 6:45, the Quarterly Prayer meeting after, and the full consistory meeting to follow.
- Some light bulbs in the sanctuary have been replaced, with more to follow. Two additional security cameras will be installed.
- The date for the annual auction has been set for February 4, 2026.

ARC Mission: Youth Mentorship Program

We are thrilled to announce the launch of an intergenerational ministry: a dedicated Youth Mentorship Program. This initiative moves beyond traditional programming to focus on the relational discipleship modeled by Jesus, strengthening both our youth and our entire church community. This program is specifically for our Jr. High and High School students, who will have the opportunity to select a mentor. Our Youth Mentorship Program will run for eight weeks between February and March of next year. Mentors and mentees will be asked to meet 4 to 6 times during this period in a public location. All selected mentors will be asked to attend a quick training session, with more detailed information coming out in January. If parents prefer their student not participate, please contact the Christian Education Committee.



Youth Benefits

1. **Spiritual Growth:** Mentors model committed adult faith.
2. **Strong Belonging:** Consistent support provides a stable presence, meeting the need to feel known, valued, and anchored to the church community.
3. **Life Skills and Wisdom:** Mentors share practical guidance on key areas in life.



Church Benefits

1. **Intergenerational Unity:** Mentorship bridges age gaps, fostering mutual respect, understanding, and a stronger, more unified church fellowship.
2. **Leadership and Continuity:** Programs intentionally develop the next generation of church leaders.
3. **Transformational Discipleship & Outreach:** It shifts the focus to deep, relational discipleship, making the church more vibrant and better motivated to extend Christ's love to the wider community.

Valentine's SUPPER

Monday, February 9th at 6:00pm
American Reformed Church

Appetizer

Hors d'oeuvres
Sparkling Grape Juice

Main Course:

Salad
Prime Rib
Au jus
Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Bread
Coffee or Water

Catered by: Lorraine Nieuwsma

Dessert:

Provided by the
Fellowship Committee

COST: \$50 PER PERSON

TICKETS INCLUDE:

- CHILDCARE
- APPETIZER
- MAIN COURSE MEAL
- DESSERT
- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
- CHANCE TO WIN A PRIZE

Tickets can be purchased at American Reformed Church and from the Fellowship Squad:

- Andrea Kelderman: 605-310-0516
- Aleisha Wissink: 712-539-3181
- Sara Vink: 712-470-0457
- Jeanne Breuer: 712-460-2336

Deadline for tickets is January 15

Please inform us of food allergies.
Alternatives are available.

PASTOR

Pastor Mark Cercone439-2057
Email – mark@hullarc.com

CONSISTORY

Galen Breuer('27)..... 460-3331
Tim Brunsting('27). 441-5442
Todd Visscher('27). 441-5663
Todd Woelber('27)..... 441-6628
Mike Mesman ('26)..... 470-5455
Craig Moss ('26) Chair of Deacons..... 441-0948
Colin Sandbulte ('26)..... 441-7457
Kevin Roozing ('26) 441-4849
Carolyn Goold(25') Clerk..... 470-4753
Rob Van't Land (25')Vice President 441-6365
Kyle Roelofs (25') 470-9174
Rick Tiedeman (25')..... 541-5881

CONSISTORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Property Colin S, Rick T
Pulpit Supply Rob VL
Sacraments..... Carolyn G, Todd V, Todd W
Christian Education Craig M, Todd V
Worship & Music Mike M, Kyle R
Mission & Evangelism Galen B, Tim B, Carolyn G

SECRETARY: Donna Wallenburg: 441-1289
CUSTODIAN: Loree Walton: 470-2947
CHURCH TREASURER: Denny Kelderman.. 470-3652
MEAL MINISTRY:Jeanne Breuer, Ruth Moss
NURSERY SUPERVISOR: Amy Moss

COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS

WORSHIP & MUSIC:

Ruth Moss: Chairman: 441-4170
Jeanne Breuer, Mike Mesman, Harlan Moss,
Audrey Raman, Kyle Roelofs, Loree Walton,
Alex Van Der Wilt, Sara Vink

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

Todd Visscher: Chairman: 441-5663
Heather Mesman, Aaron Moss, Amy Moss, Craig
Moss, Hayley Moss, Kevin Roozing, Joyce Sipma,
Aleisha Wissink

MISSION & EVANGELISM:

Galen Breuer: Chairman: 460-3331
Tim Brunsting, Ida Evertse, Ken Evertse, Carolyn
Goold, Julie Marra, Tony Van Der Zwaag

SPECIAL BENEVOLENT FUND OFFERING

January..... Love, INC
February..... Sr. ARCYF
March..... Gideons
April..... Sunday School Anniversary Fund
May Living Stone Prison Church
June Amistad Cristiana
July Village Northwest
August Jr High RCYF
September..... Grace Covenant Ministries
October Inspiration Hills
November Bruce & Tamar DeJong
December Center of Hope

FELLOWSHIP SQUAD:

Pastor Mark
Jeanne Breuer, Andrea Kelderman, Sara Vink,
Aleisha Wissink, Todd Visscher