

## **Weekly Word – For Christmas Eve and Sunday, December 26, 2021**

### **Worship this week:**

*Good news and great joy for all the people.*

These are words spoken to us from Luke 2:10 as we gather to celebrate Christmas this year. God is coming to bring good news and great joy for all of us this Christmas, and do we ever need that this year. Join us on Christmas Eve for worship and on Sunday morning as well. All the services will be livestreamed on the church YouTube page. Our schedule is below. O come let us adore him!

#### Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 pm - Family Service with Carols, Candles and Communion

Link: [https://youtu.be/ce398\\_BO07M](https://youtu.be/ce398_BO07M)

[Bulletin](#)

11:00 pm - Candlelight Service with Communion and Choir

Link: <https://youtu.be/4l6b6lY2nQI>

[Bulletin](#)

#### Sunday, December 26

10:00 am - Christmas Worship with Communion and Special Music

Link: <https://youtu.be/mrIbrUWTtgY>

[Bulletin](#)

### **This Week:**

Fri., Dec 24	4:00-5:00 pm	Family Service with Carols, Candles and Communion
	11:00 pm-12:00 am	Candlelight Service with Communion and Choir
Sun., Dec 26	9:00-9:45 am	Music Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
	9:45-11:15 am	Nursery Open
	10:00-11:00 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:00-11:00 am	Children in Worship – No Sunday School
	11:00-11:30 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM
Mon., Dec 27		Church Office Closed
Tues., Dec 28	9:00 am-2:00 pm	Among Friends
Wed., Dec 29		No Wednesday Activities
Fri., Dec 31		Church Office Closed
Sun., Jan 2	9:00-9:45 am	Music Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
	9:45-11:15 am	Nursery Open
	10:00-11:00 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:00-11:00 am	Children in Worship – No Sunday School
	11:00-11:30 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM

**The Day of Epiphany: Mark your calendars!** In the next days and weeks, time will go quickly. Mark your calendars for a special evening worship service on **The Day of Epiphany, January 6, 2022, at 6:30 pm.** Together we will sing “Unfailing Light” an evening service of holy communion, composed by Marty Haugen (of *Holden Village Evening Prayer* fame). We will light candles to chase away the darkness, share bread, drink from the cup, and then enjoy cranberry cake with hot butter sauce dessert. Please come. Let us know you are coming to be sure we have enough dessert.

Sign up link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-epiphany>

### **Youth Group Gatherings:**

Wednesday, December 22 and 29 – No Meetings

### **Big Events Coming Soon!**

Badland Snow Tubing (All ages) - Sunday, January 9, 2:30-5:30 pm - please sign up

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-middle4>

Rock Climbing at UWRF (All ages) - Sunday, January 30, 1:00-3:00 pm - please sign up

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-middle5>

**Wednesday Family Meals:** Meals will begin again January 19th.

**Adult Forum:** The Adult Forum is held **Sundays from 8:45–9:45 am** in the Youth Room.

**Adult Bible Study:** The Adult Bible Study group meets **Wednesday afternoons from 1:00–2:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. On January 5, 2022, the group will begin studying the Old Testament book of Amos. Discussion books are available in the church office for \$24.00. For more information, contact Pastor Stacy.

**Church Yoga:** Jan Hansen's church yoga group meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the church Fellowship Hall from 9:00-10:00 am and via Zoom. Please call the office to receive the Zoom link. **Yoga will take a break for the holidays and return on January 4th.**

**Coffee Fellowship Hosts Needed:** Please sign up to help host and serve. Everything you need is provided, you just need to get there a little early to get things ready, serve and do a quick clean up. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-coffee>

**Liturgists Needed:** Please sign up to be a Sunday liturgist. You will lead us in the Call to Worship and a Scripture text. The bulletin will be sent via email to you on Thursday. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-liturgist>

**Welcomers Needed:** Please sign up to be a welcomer on Sunday morning before the worship service. One person is needed for at the bottom of the stairs at the 3rd Street Entrance and one person is needed at the Ramp Entrance. Please arrive 20 minutes prior to the worship service. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-welcomers>

**Altar Table Flowers:** Please sign up to provide flowers for the altar for Sunday worship. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-altar>

**Sign Up Sheets:** All current sign-up sheets are on the website. Click on “Connect” and then “Sign Ups/Forms.”

**Annual Reports Due:** All Committees, please submit your Annual Reports, preferably electronically, by **Thursday, January 13**, to Missy Luedtke at [missy@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:missy@firstchurchrf.org). Thank you!

**Church App:** The church has a mobile phone app. You can download it from the church website or by scanning the QR Code found on a flyer on the sign-up table and Facebook.



### **Offering QR Code**

1. On your mobile device, open your Camera app or QR Code app
2. Point your camera at the QR Code
3. Click the tab ‘Give Online’

**Free Money for Church Ministries:** The church has an Amazon Smile account through which the church can receive a portion of the price of each purchase you make through Amazon. It is important to know that you need to do two things for the church to receive this money. First, go to Amazon Smile by typing in [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and then add First Congregational Church River Falls to your Amazon Smile. Second, every time you order you must order through your Smile account by going to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Once you do this, the church will receive 0.5% of each eligible order. Please contact the church office if you have questions.

**Finances:** THANK YOU to all of you for your support of the mission and ministry of our church through your tithes, offerings, and gifts. Your generosity empowers our church! Please be sure to sign up for e-giving or mail/drop off your gifts. There is also now an option to give online via our church website.

	Dec 19, 2021	Year to Date
General Fund Income*	\$ 5,875	\$ 462,505
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 472,362

A full accounting of all income and expenses is available in the church office.

\*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

**Building Fund Update:**

Original Cost of Facilities Expansion Project	\$2,386,970
Remaining Amount on Bank Loan	\$544,249
Remaining Amount of Church Endowment Loan	\$300,000
Cash on Hand in the Building Fund	\$108,592
Interest Rate	4.725%
Monthly Payment	\$3,300

**People:**

- For Dave Mountain who is retired as our church custodian after 15 years of ministry, may you be blessed with rest
- For Sarah Plum, our choir director who received the 2022 Outstanding Young Choral Director Award for her work at RFHS, congratulations, we are proud of you!
- For our church children who again in worship this year told us the good news of great joy for all people
- For those who will be fed from our generosity as we again support the ministry of Feed My Starving Children this Christmas Eve
- For the gift of the Giving Tree and the families it will bless
- For the Shoebox Ministry to the men at Kinnic Rehab, that it may kindle hope

Do you have other upcoming news and celebrations to share with the congregation? Graduations? Birthday and Anniversary celebrations? Please email them to [office@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:office@firstchurchrf.org) by Wednesday of each week to be included in the Weekly Word which is sent out on Thursdays.

**Prayer:** Prayer connects us with God and our neighbors. Each week in the bulletin there is a prayer list of people, situations and thanksgivings that is also sent out by email to help people in their prayer life. You can sign up by contacting the office at [office@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:office@firstchurchrf.org)

**Church Office Hours:**

Monday through Thursday – 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Friday – 8:30 am to Noon

The Church Office will be closed December 27 and 31.

**Church Staff Contact:**

Pastor: Chris Myers - [chris@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:chris@firstchurchrf.org)

Office/Finance: Missy Luedtke - [missy@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:missy@firstchurchrf.org)

Education: Stacy Johnson Myers - [stacy@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:stacy@firstchurchrf.org)

Mission: Dave Ostendorf - [dave@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:dave@firstchurchrf.org)

Youth: Alex and Sarah Plum – [rfyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:rfyouthgroup@gmail.com)

Music: Jamie Mills - [degolierjamie@gmail.com](mailto:degolierjamie@gmail.com)

Choir: Sarah Plum – [sarah.e.plum.95@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.e.plum.95@gmail.com)

Building: Farnum Fuller – [farnumfuller@gmail.com](mailto:farnumfuller@gmail.com)

Maintenance: Tim Bylander - [timthefixitguy@gmail.com](mailto:timthefixitguy@gmail.com)