

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH
of SOUTH HOLLAND
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025



Welcome to First Reformed Church!

In this season of Advent, we rejoice in *the already and the not yet*. Jesus has already come entering our world to bring light, hope, and healing to our broken lives. Because of His first coming, we can walk in the healing, forgiveness, and restoration He freely provides today.

But we also live with *holy expectation*, waiting for the day when Jesus will come again to bring ultimate healing when every wound will be mended, every tear wiped away, and every broken thing made whole.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 21, 2025

WE APPROACH GOD

Organ Prelude

"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"
Reflection on *"Veni Emmanuel"*
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"
"Silent Night (Emmanuel)"

Opening Song of Worship

Opening Invocation

Congregational Singing

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Lighting of the Peace Candle

Tim and Megan DeYoung

*Greeting One Another

*Congregational Singing

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Anthony Bolkema

Song of Assurance

"Glory (Let There Be Peace)"

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture

Matthew 1:18-25

Message

"A Thrill of Hope"

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer

Pastor Anthony Bolkema

Offertory

"O Holy Night"

*Doxology

"Doxology (The First Noel)"

*Benediction

Pastor Ted Powers

*Sending in Grace

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

*Organ Postlude

Joanne Hoeksema

*Those who are able please stand.

Please, join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall after worship for a cup of conversation and a cookie.

UP & COMING AT FIRST...

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

GREETERS: Steve and Alison VanderWoude

WORSHIP TEAM: Kim Bolkema, Peter & Julia Keep, Bill Nyhanna, Nick Paarlberg, and Lisa Triemstra

ORGAN: Joanne Hoeksema; **PIANO:** Anthony Bolkema

PROJECTION: Gwen Adams

VIDEO: Rhonda DeBok

SOUND: Lucas Bolkema

NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Sara Jabaay

COFFEE SERVERS: Rodger & Sherry Norris and Gerri VanBaren

PRAYER ROOM ELDER: Roger DeGraff

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

9:30AM: Piece Makers meet in Fellowship Hall

6:00PM: Music Team Rehearsal for Christmas Eve in the Sanctuary

7:00PM: Music Team Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

11:00PM: Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary (The front doors and the fellowship hall (organ door) will be the only doors unlocked for entry of the Christmas Eve service!)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

GREETERS: Veldboom Family

WORSHIP TEAM: Kim Bolkema, Nolan Bolkema, Nick Paarlberg, Lisa Triemstra, and Bella VanderWoude

ORGAN: Joanne Hoeksema; **PIANO:** Amy Veldboom

PROJECTION: Lucas Bolkema

VIDEO: Eric Pradelski

SOUND: Rhonda Hesselink

NURSERY: Darcy Daly and Kim Bolkema

COFFEE SERVERS: Clair & Lynn Hoeksema and Dennis & Deb Woltzen

COOKIE VOLUNTEERS: Felicia Flowers, Grace Jacobsma, and Alison VanderWoude

PRAYER ROOM ELDER: Clint Verhagen

CARE...

Sharon Dinkel had a pacemaker procedure at Silver Cross Hospital and is now experiencing complications due to her MS and some infections.

Mary Ann Gouwens fell and broke her hip and we are waiting to be updated on her condition.

Charles Dinkel is home recovering from surgery that repaired his broken arm.

Nicole DeBok is home after having been hospitalized with severe abdominal pain.

Phil Capone has an angioplasty scheduled for Tuesday, December 23.

Anna Mae Groeneveld is home in hospice care.

Matthew Koster fell and broke his arm. Pray for a speedy recovery.

Lisa Magnon, Anna Collins' daughter and primary care giver for Anna, has been diagnosed with lung cancer and is starting immunotherapy and chemotherapy.

Sharon Brooks' mom, Paula Amos, no longer needs to undergo chemotherapy. Sharon's grandfather has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer and is going through additional tests.

Pray for **Christopher Nelson** as his cancer has returned and further treatment is no longer an option.

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY: Anne Koval, 713 E. 156th Place, South Holland, IL 60473

HOLIDAY HOURS...

Church Office Closed: December 25 & 26 and January 1 & 2

Family Life Christian Day Care Closed: December 24-26 & December 31–January 2

ON DUTY FOR DECEMBER...

First Security: Dennis Woltzen & Steve VanderWoude

First Emergency: Jessica DeBok

CHURCH LIFE...

WE WELCOME TO OUR PULPIT this morning Pastor Ted Powers. Ted has been an ordained Teaching Elder in the PCA since 1980, with robust educational and experiential background in church planting and church renewal. He currently serves as the Director of the Midwest Alliance, coaching, training, and equipping church planters and church planting initiatives in the PCA.

DEAR COOKIE COMMITTEE LADIES: The new cookie schedules for January-April 2026 are now in your mailbox. Thank you for your willingness to be part of this Ministry of Hospitality at First Church. Your creations are a hit every coffee time!

PLEASE REMEMBER FIRST CHURCH with your tithes and offerings as we near the end of 2025. Any year-end gifts must be given on or before December 31. Offering envelopes have been issued for 2026 and are in your mail slots. If you should have any questions, please contact Deacon Chair Rodger Norris at 708-337-9953.

OASIS RETREAT: Our OASIS students will be going on a WINTERXTREME retreat at Camp TimberLee in Wisconsin on January 2-4, 2026.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. TRIBUTE on **Saturday, January 17** at 10:00am held at Spirit of God Fellowship (16350 State St., SH). The South Holland Ministerial Association and the Village of South Holland are partnering to present this year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute. The event will feature music, performing arts, and a powerful message. Light refreshments will be served following the service. All are welcome to attend this free event!

REMINDERS....

BE SURE TO VISIT THE WELCOME CENTERS and sign cards for our shut-ins. Please also remember to empty your mail slots.

PLEASE KEEP THE PARKING AREA that is lined in the front and on the north side of the church - which is closest to the elevator - available for those who have difficulty walking. Thank you!

VETERANS PARK LIGHT DISPLAY: The Christmas lights at Veterans Memorial Park are now aglow! A spectacular light display will shine every night between now and Sunday, January 4. Make sure to stop by and take a stroll!

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES TO NOTE...

- **Wednesday, Dec. 24,** join us for our Christmas Eve Service at 11:00pm. This service is always a highlight of the year, as we stay up and greet Christmas Day with carols, candlelight, worship, and sparklers! The front doors and the fellowship hall (organ door) will be the only doors unlocked for entry of the Christmas Eve service!
- **Sunday, January 4,** our Annual Tolling of the Bells Service where we hear the bell toll for the loved ones who have gone on to glory this past year. We also have the joy of remembering the baptisms we celebrated this past year.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES...

SUNDAY SCHOOL continues for all ages from 11:00am - noon. **PreK-8th Grade gather to sing, work on memory verses, and collect an offering in the Genesis Room from 11:00-11:0am, then move to their classrooms until noon.**

- PreK–2nd Grades/Genesis Room
- 3rd–5th Grades/Library
- 6th–8th Grades starts/Genesis Room
- 9th–12th Grades/Chapel
- Tibstra House/Heritage Room

No Sunday School on Sunday, December 28 & Sunday, January 4!

THE LADIES' MORNING BIBLE STUDY meets next on **Tuesday, January 13,** at 9:30am in the Genesis Room. Hope to see you there!

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED to join an evening Bible study on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month. We meet next on **Wednesday, January 14** at 6:30pm in the Genesis Room. All are welcome to attend! Contact Joanne Hoeksema or Alison VanderWoude if you have any questions.

ALL MEN ARE INVITED to join a new evening Bible study on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month. We meet next on **Wednesday, January 14** at 6:30pm in the Heritage Room. Please consider joining the men of First Reformed as we seek to grow in the grace and truth of the gospel. See Steve VanderWoude if you have any questions.

SERMON NOTES...

Matthew 1:18-25
"A Thrill of Hope"
Pastor Ted Powers

EVERY SUNDAY, an Elder is assigned to pray in our Prayer Room for 20 minutes following the service. The Prayer Room is located through the doors and down the hallway from the Chapel (exit the Sanctuary from the door by the piano). The praying elder will be praying for those who attended the service, the needs of our congregation, and various parts of our church's life together. If you have a particular prayer request, stop by and the praying elder will pray with you (or you can join her or him in prayer for our church).



15924 South Park Avenue • South Holland, IL 60473
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SECRETARIES' OFFICE HOURS
9:00AM – NOON / Monday – Friday

STAFF...

Dr. Anthony Bolkema
Interim Executive Pastor

Pastor Corey Buchanan
Associate Pastor

Jane Ackerman
Church Accountant

Nyla DeGraff
Church Administrator

Gerri VanBaren
Administrative Assistant

Darcy Daly
Nursery Coordinator

Steve Alexander
Church Custodian

Toni Smith
*Director of Family Life
Christian Pre-School & Day Care*

Visit us online at www.frcsh.org

Find us in the app store by searching for
"First Reformed Church South Holland" or by visiting get.theapp.co/1779.



To get to know you better, please fill out our [Welcome Card](#) in the pew and place it in the offering plate. If you want more information about the life of First Church, make sure to include your email address.