

Welcome to Cottage Grove Church and to our worship services. If you are visiting, please sign a guest book at the back of the sanctuary or near one of the entrances and join us for coffee after the morning service so that we can get better acquainted. Recordings of our services are available on our website or on compact disk by calling the church office or using the order form located next to the guest book in the narthex. May the Lord bless you richly as you hear His word and join in worship.

The Lord's Day • December 18, 2016
Morning Worship • 9:30 a.m.

Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing with others. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us His most precious gift. We remember that Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in His ministry as the Good Shepherd. As God is love, we are also to love. May our hearts be filled with His love, a love for each other as a church, and a love for the world around us. May we reflect the love of Jesus in such a way that the world may see our love and glorify our Father who is in heaven.

Prelude
 *Call to Worship and Prayer
 *Celebration Hymnal 244 ***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus***
 *Declaration of Trust and God's Greeting
 *Celebration Hymnal 281: 1 – 3 *What Child Is This?*

Reading of the Law
 Assurance of Pardon - Celebration Hymnal 156 read by pastor
 *Celebration Hymnal 157 ***The Love of God***
 Lord's Supper Preparatory
 Ministry of Music *Mary Did You Know?*
 Courtney Van Kley and Mark Uittenbogaard

Congregational Prayer
 Offering Cottage Grove General Fund
 *Psalter Hymnal 343 *Brightest and Best of the Sons*

Scripture Matthew 2: 1 – 12 (pew Bible, p. 1497)
 Text Matthew 2: 1 – 2
 Sermon ADVENT: THE WISE MEN
 Prayer of Application

*Celebration Hymn al 289 *Adoration*
 *Benediction
 *Celebration Hymnal 275: 4 ***"Wise Men Sought and Found Him..."***
 *Postlude

*Please stand if able.

Bold denotes projected items.

T o d a y a t C o t t a g e G r o v e

- 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship. Rev. Joseph Brinks, preaching. Offering: Cottage Grove General Fund.
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday School **Christmas Program Practice.**
- 5:30 p.m. Evening Worship. Intern Cary Gephart, preaching. Offering: Cottage Grove Benevolence Fund. This service will include the Sunday School Christmas program *Wise Men Still Seek Him.*
- **Praise Ensemble practice** after the worship service.

T h i s W e e k a t C o t t a g e G r o v e

Tuesday, December 20

- 6:30 p.m. **Education Committee** meets.

Wednesday, December 21

- 6:30 – 7:45 a.m. **Men's Prayer Breakfast** meets at Sheffield's Restaurant (1027 Sheffield Ave., Dyer, IN).

Saturday, December 24

- 10:00 a.m. **Praise Ensemble practice.**

N e x t W e e k a t C o t t a g e G r o v e

Sunday, December 25

- 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship. Rev. Joseph Brinks, preaching. Sermon title: PROCLAIMING CHRIST. Offering: Elim Christian Services. Lord's Supper.
- 5:30 p.m. Evening Worship. Rev. Joseph Brinks, preaching. Sermon title: ESCAPE TO EGYPT, RETURN TO NAZARETH. Offering: Cottage Grove General Fund. First CRC will join us for evening worship.

C o m i n g E v e n t s

Sunday, January 1. We will join First CRC for evening worship.

Thursday, January 5, 7:00 p.m. The **Pastoral Search Committee** will be meeting. Your prayers and encouragements are greatly appreciated.

Sunday, January 8. First CRC will join us for evening worship.

P r a y e r R e q u e s t s

- Rose S has returned to her home at St. Anthony's in Lansing.
- Dick S as he continues with cancer care.

F r o m M i s s i o n C o m m i t t e e

Neighbor Love Idea: Share with a neighbor the true meaning of Christmas, and invite them to worship services.

A n n o u n c e m e n t s

- **Save Your Postage Stamps!** The Alliance Stamp Ministry sells cancelled postage stamps for Christian materials in Central and South America. Place your cancelled stamps in the box in the Fellowship Hall. This is an ongoing project...and it doesn't cost you a stamp! We all get extra mail at Christmas – let's see how many stamps we can collect!
- If you are willing to prepare the hot lunch for about 20-25 people for **"Sabbath Rest"** during January, February, March, April, or May, please contact Carol S soon. Thank you so much!
- **Budget envelopes** for the coming year are available for all those who are over 18 years of age or who have made profession of faith. Please pick yours up from the table in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions or would like to request a set of budget envelopes, please contact Bob S.

Requested Announcements

Friday, January 6, 6:30 p.m. Elim Hostess Supper at Protestant Reformed Church (1777 Richton Road, Crete, IL). Come help show your support for Elim Christian Services. We'd like to have a whole table, or better yet two, from Cottage Grove. Call Kathy Kooyenga (708-877-6154) if interested in attending and to find out what to bring.

The **Esther School in Zambia, Africa**, is looking for a skilled contractor who would like to serve as our campus Facilities and Site Director. The full job description is available at estherschool.org. Contact Jill Postma by email, jill.p@estherschool.org, or phone (616) 241-5616 ext. 3040, to inquire. The Esther School opened in 2012 as an outreach of GEMS Girls' Clubs.

In Service

	December 18	December 25
Organist AM	Jan H	Arlene V Z
Pianist AM		Beth H
Organist PM	Justin R	
Pianist PM	Barb U	Joan F
Greeters AM	Tim & Bethany T	Tom & Courtney V K
Greeter-South AM	Rich K	Bob S
Greeters PM	Rick & Barb U	Mark & Angela U
Nursery AM	Gail W Hannah W	Beth H Dale H
Ushers	Terry W Rick U	John H Tom V K Dave V K
Video AM/PM	Rich K	Bob S
AM Cookies	Alecia S	Bethany T
Holland Home Driver	Dick S	Dave V K
Sound Operator	Marv S	Jon K

Elder Districts

A – C Rick U
 D - H Luke S
 I – P Gene F
 R – T Rich K
 U – Z Dick S

Deacon Districts

Tom V K
 Neil V
 Ryan S
 Ken B
 Bob S