



Faithful to the Scriptures.

True to the Reformed Faith.

Obedient to the Great Commission.

Lord's Day 52

December 28th, 2025

First Sunday of Christmas

WELCOME

Grace to you and Peace!

On behalf of the elders, deacons, and all the saints: Welcome to **First Presbyterian Church of Bad Axe**. We are pleased that you are here with us today to worship our Triune God. This bulletin contains a liturgy which will guide you through our worship services. We invite you to join us after the service for coffee, snacks, and fellowship. Here's a bit of info about who we are and what we believe:

We are a Christian Church: Thus, we believe in the Holy Trinity: One God, in three persons: The Eternal Father, the Eternally-Begotten Son, and the Eternally-Proceeding Holy Spirit. As Christians, we confess the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3) and codified in the ancient creeds of the Christian Church: The Apostles' Creed (2nd century), the Nicene Creed (AD 381), the Definition of Chalcedon (AD 451) and the Athanasian Creed (5th century).

We are a Protestant Church: As Protestants, we trace our beliefs and practices to the Apostolic Church, but we also have foundational roots in the Protestant Reformation of the 16th and 17th centuries. Protestants believe in the authority of the inspired Holy Scriptures over unbiblical Church tradition. We also believe that salvation is by God's *grace alone*, through *faith alone*, in *Christ alone*, for the *glory of God alone* (Eph. 2:8–10).

We are a Reformed Church: Reformed Churches originated from different regions, mostly in Western Europe, during the Protestant Reformation. These churches believe and confess the doctrinal summaries of the Holy Scriptures that arose from that time period. Our tradition comes from the Scottish and English Reformations; thus, we believe and confess the Westminster Standards, written in England during the 1640's.

We are a Presbyterian Church: Presbyterians believe that the biblical form of Church government is through called, trained, tested, elected, and ordained elders. In the Greek New Testament, elders are called *presbyters*, which is where the name "Presbyterian" comes from. Our Teaching Elder preaches and teaches, and our Ruling Elders come alongside of him to shepherd, lead, keep the Church from false doctrine, and make decisions on her behalf. We also have trained, tested, called, elected, and ordained deacons who take care of the material needs of the Church.

Reformed Presbyterian Churches hold the public worship of God in high esteem. Thus, our **Lord's Day Worship Services** are the most important events of the week. During this time, we gather together to hear the Word of God, receive the Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper), to pray, to praise, and enjoy Christian fellowship. If you have any questions, feel free to connect with me, or with one of our elders or deacons.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Rev. Scott C. McDermand II

CHURCH LIFE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS SUNDAY: DECEMBER 28TH

- 9:55 Announcements & Prelude
- 10:00 Morning Worship: Word, Sacrament, & Prayer**
- 11:15 Fellowship: Coffee, Tea, & Snacks
- 11:45 Sunday School
- 5:00 Evening Worship: Catechetical Service**

THIS WEEK: DECEMBER 28TH– JANUARY 3RD

Theology Thursday: Book Study – No meeting this week. Happy New Year!

Birthdays & Anniversaries –

FOR YOUR CALENDAR: FUTURE EVENTS

Courtney Manor Service – Our next Courtney Manor worship service is next Sunday, January 4th at 1:00 PM. If you are able, come and join us as we worship with those who are unable to join us for our public worship.

Epiphany Feast – Our annual Epiphany Feast is after our morning service on Sunday, January 11th. Join as we celebrate the Epiphany of Lord to the nations. Need volunteers to cook the ham and turkey, which is provided by the church. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Annual Congregational Meeting – Our Congregational Meeting will be held after our morning worship service on Sunday, January 25th. There will be fellowship and snacks afterward, but no Sunday School or PM Service that day. Annual reports and write-ups will be available at the beginning of January prior to the meeting.

Missions Giving – Beginning in 2026, our giving toward missions will now be part of our budget. We will be giving 10% of our 2025 tithing toward foreign and local missions. If you are currently giving additional offerings toward missions, we encourage you to simply factor that into your weekly or monthly giving. We are also looking for several people who are missions-minded and would like to serve in local outreach. Thank you!

Chili Cook-Off – Our annual Chili Cook-Off will be held after our morning worship service on Sunday, February 8th. We need at least 10 chili-makers to enter the Cook-Off and many sides, drinks, and desserts will also be needed! Feel free to use chicken, ground turkey, venison, or duck in place of beef.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH IN NEED OF PRAYER: Ann Armstrong, Mark & Michelle Green, Tom & Julia Mayes, and Lisa Schember; those who serve as caretakers; all who are ill or traveling; long-term care residents: Pam Belew (Courtney Manor), Bertha McTaggart, and Ann Thaut (Meadow Lanes); for those who have ceased attending public worship, that God would reveal to them their sin, and the necessity of worship and fellowship.

OUR MISSIONARIES: Jim DeWitt (Latin America), Lynn Hacker, the Kawachis (France), the Nachtergaeles (Belgium), the Shupes (British Colombia), and the Wilsons (Middle East), as they work as ambassadors of the King for the advancement of the Gospel of his Kingdom; that we would be missionaries by sharing the gospel and inviting people to our church; that God would grant courage and the words to speak as we interact with family and friends; that we would not be ashamed of sharing the gospel, but always ready to provide a defense for the hope that is within us.

OUR CHURCH'S MINISTRIES: That the work of the Session, Diaconate, Sunday School program, Missions Committee, and of all the saints would glorify God and be Great Commission-focused; that our service would edify the church and facilitate growth; that we would remain vigilant and faithful to the Word of God and our denominational standards; that our Sunday school classrooms would be full; for the peace and purity of our church; that our members would take their public vows seriously and attend church regularly; that our people would attend our PM services where the means of grace are offered; that God would be glorified and we would be sanctified as we worship him.

OUR COUNTRY: That the civil magistrate would rule with justice and uphold laws; that they would protect and encourage the good and punish the evil; for our local, county, state, and federal civil servants; for the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches; that our leaders in government would come to know Christ: The King of kings and Lord of lords, and that their governance would demonstrate that knowledge; that Christians in the United States would live quiet, godly, and dignified lives; that Christians would direct others to God in the way that we live as salt and light.

THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL: That the Kingdom of God on earth would advance through the preaching of the gospel throughout the world; for Christians who are being persecuted and martyred: that they would be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ and that their persecutors would be converted through this witness. This month we pray in particular for Christians living under Muslim oppression and persecution in Nigeria.

PRELUDE & SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Piano, Brynne McCrea

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again, may be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect | Christmas

“Josph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceive in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

St. Matthew | Matthew 1:20a–23

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth...For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made himself known.

St. John | John 1:14, 16–18

Christ humbled himself in his conception and birth, in that, being from all eternity the Son of God, in the bosom of the Father, he was pleased in the fullness of time to become the son of man, made of a woman of low estate, and to be born of her, with diverse circumstances of more than ordinary abasement.

The Westminster Divines | Westminster Larger Catechism 47

~ THE DIVINE SERVICE ~

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*GOD'S GREETING

Galatians 1:3–5

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from John 1 &

Matthew 1

*PSALM OF PRAISE

208 – O Come,

All Ye Faithful

*RESPONSORIAL

from John 1; Matthew 1 & Psalm

124:5

Minister: In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.

†Congregation: **All things were made through him,
and without him was not anything made that was made.**

Minister: In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

†Congregation: **The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Minister: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.

†Congregation: **For behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a
son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel,
which means, "God with us."**

Minister: Our help is in the Name of the LORD!

†Congregation: **Who made heaven and earth!**

*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

READING OF THE LAW

Matthew

1:18–25

Minister: The Word of God is living and active.

†Congregation: **Sharper than any two-edged sword.**

EXPOSITION OF THE LAW

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

CORPORATE CONFESSION

Eternal God,

Light of the world and Giver of Life,
we come before you confessing our sin.

The true Light has shown in the darkness,
but we have often loved the darkness rather than your light.

You sent your Son, the Word made flesh, full of grace and truth,
yet we have turned from his voice and trusted in our own wisdom.

Like Joseph, we have wrestled with doubt,
but help us, like him, to turn to you and trust in your grace,
and to remember that you are faithful to fulfill all your promises.

Forgive us, O Lord,
for our hearts are slow to believe,
and our eyes are dim to see Your glory.

By your Spirit, renew us in faith and obedience,
that we may walk in the light of Christ,
and, rejoicing in Immanuel – God with us –
Through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1:21, 23

*HYMN OF ASSURANCE

Christmas

1 John 1:9; Matthew

Sing We Now of

OUR OFFERINGS

It belongs to those in the office of elder...to watch diligently over the flock committed to his charge, that no corruption of morals enter therein...They should pray with and for the people, being careful and diligent in seeking the fruit of the preached Word among the flock.

Book of Discipline | BCO 8-3

The Holy Scriptures teach that God is the owner of all persons and all things and that we are but stewards of both life and possessions; that God's ownership and our stewardship should be acknowledged; that this acknowledgment should take the form, in part, of giving at least a tithe of our income and other offerings to the work of the Lord through Church of Jesus Christ, thus worshipping the Lord with our possessions.¹

Book of Worship | BCO 54-1

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Ruling Elder,

Mr. Jim Philp

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;

¹ Offerings can be placed in the offering plates in the back of the sanctuary, given online, or by using the "Church App" on your mobile device.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.

THE WEEKLY OFFERING

2 Corinthians

8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich,
yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become
rich.

*THE OFFERING OF PRAISE

O Come, Let Us Adore

Him

THE SERMON

It is required of those that hear the Word preached, that they attend upon it with diligence, preparation, and prayer; examine what they hear by the Scriptures; receive the truth with faith, love, meekness, and readiness of mind, as the Word of God; meditate upon, and confer of it; hide it in their hearts, and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives.

The Westminster Divines | WLC 160

*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SERMON TEXT

John 1:1–5,

14–18

Minister: The grass withers, the flower fades,

†Congregation: **But the Word of our God stands forever!**

SERMON

Advent, Christmas, &

Epiphany with John:

Christmas 2: The Word Became

Flesh

SERMON NOTES

THE ETERNALLY-BEGOTTEN WORD OF GOD (vv. 1–5, 15)

THE INCARNATION: THE WORD BECAME FLESH (v. 14)

THE LAW AND GRACE UPON GRACE (vv. 16–17)

HE HAS MADE THE FATHER KNOWN (v. 18)

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

162 – *Of the Father's Love*

Begotten

THE LITURGY OF THE UPPER ROOM

CONFESSION OF FAITH

DEFINITION OF CHALCEDON (AD 451)

We, then, following the holy fathers,
who all with one consent, teach men to confess
one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood;
truly God and truly man, of a rational soul and body;
co-essential with the Father according to the Godhead,
and consubstantial with us according to the manhood;
in all things like unto us, yet without sin;

Begotten of the Father before the ages regarding the Godhead,
and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation,
born of the Virgin Mary, the God-bearer, regarding the manhood;
one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten;

To be acknowledge in two natures,
without confusion, without change,
without division, without separation;

the distinction of the natures being in no way annulled by the union,
but rather, the property of each nature being preserved,
and concurring in one person and one subsistence,
not parted or divided into two persons,
but one and the same Son, and only-begotten:
God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ;

As the prophets from the beginning have declared concerning Him,
and as the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has taught us,
and the creed of the holy fathers has handed down to us.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

LORD'S SUPPER PREFACE

COMMUNION HYMN

193 – Let All Mortal Flesh Keep

Silence

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Sursum Corda (3rd

Cent.)

Minister: Peace be with you.

†Congregation: **And also, with you!**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

†Congregation: **We lift them up to the Lord!**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

†Congregation: **It is good and right for us to give thanks.**

Minister: Let us pray to the Lord.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

1 Corinthians

11:23–26

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had

given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

DOXOLOGY & BENEDICTION

*DOXOLOGY

203 – Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

(1, 2)

*BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians

13:14

*POSTLUDE

EVENING WORSHIP: CATECHETICAL SERVICE (5:00 PM)

PRELUDE

“Stricken, Smitten, & Afflicted”
Sterben

O Mein Jesu, Ich Muss

Paderborn (1850)

PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER

God was pleased to give to the people of Israel, as a Church under age, ceremonial laws, containing several typical ordinances, partly of worship, prefiguring Christ, his graces, actions, sufferings, and benefits; and partly holding forth diverse instructions of moral duties. All which ceremonial laws are now abrogated under the New Testament. To them also, as a body politic, he gave sundry judicial laws, which expired together with the State of that people, not obliging any other, now, further than the general equity thereof may require.

The Westminster Divines | WCF 19.3–4, “Of the Law of God”

The moral doth forever bind all, as well as justified persons as others, to the obedience thereof; and that not only in regard of the matter contained in it, but also in respect of the authority of God the Creator who gave it. Neither doth Christ in the gospel any way dissolve, but much strengthen this obligation.

The Westminster Divines| WCF 19.5, “Of the Law of God”

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment, he was taken away...And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

The Holy Prophet Isaiah| Isaiah 53:7–9

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

St. Paul| 2 Corinthians 5:21

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*GREETING

1 Peter

1:1b–2

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 107:1–9,

15

*PSALM OF PRAISE

4 – All Praise to God, Who

Reigns Above

*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

READING & RESPONSES

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah

52:13–53:12

CONFESSIONAL STATEMENT

WCF 19.3–5 – Of the Law of

God

God was pleased to give to the people of Israel,
as a Church under age, ceremonial laws,
containing several typical ordinances,
partly of worship, prefiguring Christ,
his graces, actions, sufferings, and benefits;
and partly holding forth diverse instructions of moral duties.
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he gave sundry judicial laws,
which expired together with the State of that people,
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further than the general equity thereof may require.

The moral law doth forever bind all,
as well as justified persons as others,
to the obedience thereof;
and that not only in regard of the matter contained in it,
but also, in respect of the authority of God the Creator who gave it.
Neither doth Christ in the gospel any way dissolve,
but much strengthen this obligation.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

257 – Stricken, Smitten, and

Afflicted

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE READING & PREACHING OF THE WORD

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew

4:1–11

SERMON

Of the Law of God: Three Kinds of

Laws

SERMON NOTES

THE CEREMONIAL LAWS OF THE OLD COVENANT

THE JUDICIAL/CIVIL LAWS OF OLD COVENANT ISRAEL

THE MORAL LAW

THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST & THE LAWS

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE & THE LAWS OF GOD

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

*PSALM OF APPLICATION

558 – That Man is Blest, Who Fearing

God

THE LITURGY OF THE UPPER ROOM

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

CONFESSION OF FAITH

845 – Apostles'

Creed

LORD'S SUPPER PREFACE

COMMUNION HYMN

246 – *Man of*

Sorrows

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Sursum

Corda

Minister: Peace be with you.

†Congregation: **And also, with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

†Congregation: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

†Congregation: **It is good and right for us to give thanks.**

Minister: Let us pray to the Lord.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

1 Corinthians

11:23–26

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THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

*DOXOLOGY

11 – Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God

(1, 2)

*BENEDICTION

Hebrews

13:20–21

EXTENDED PRAYER LIST

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstance;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

(1 Thessalonians 5:16–18)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH:

For the health of: Ann Armstrong (cancer), Mark (major back surgery, recovering at home) & Michelle (caretaking) Green, Tom & Julia Mayes (recovery from surgery, constant pain, and a recent fall), and Lisa Schember; for all those who serve as caretakers in our congregation; for those who are ill; and for those who are traveling.

For those living in long-term care facilities: Pam Belew (Courtney Manor), Bertha McTaggart and Ann Thaut (Meadow Lanes); that our shut-in ministry would be fruitful and that our members would participate in it.

For non-attending members: that God would reveal to them their sin and grant them an understanding of the necessity of public worship and the means of grace; that by his Spirit, he would bring them back to the body of Christ so that they would not forsake the communion of the saints and the public worship on the Lord’s Day for his glory and their edification.

For Visitors: That God would continue to bring in families, couples, and individuals who seek to glorify him, learn the Bible and the Christian Faith, and come to a Reformed understanding of Scripture. Praise for recent visitors and that they would consider membership here in our local body of Christ.

For our Families: that husbands would love their wives as Christ loves the Church and that wives would submit to their husbands as the Church submits to Christ. That parents would take seriously their duty to raise and train their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. That fathers would bring their families to Church. That parents would bring their children to Sunday School every Lord’s Day. That children would obey their parents and show respect to authorities in the home, church, and society.

For our singles and divorced: that they would devote themselves to the Lord and to the ministries of the Church; and that God would grant marriage to those who desire it.

For our widows: that the Lord would provide support and fellowship through the church; that they would devote themselves to Christ and serve His body.

For our College Students: Regan Hobkirk and Hailee McLeod; that they would glorify God in their studies; that they would attend a local church on the Lord's Day; and that God would grant them vocational clarity.

For Family Members & Friends of our Church: for the physical and spiritual health of: Amanda Armstrong (Ann's niece: cancer); Linda Dumaw (Bonnie Perry, Judy Stokan, and Sharon Carpenter's friend); Tom Fata (Annette Knapp's brother: colon cancer); Virginia Gembarski (Sharon Gisel's sister: Leukemia); Libby Hill and Nancy McLeod (Allan McLeod's aunt and sister-in-law); Marge Mauer (Bonnie Perry's friend: stroke, surgery); Nicole Patterson (Gina's daughter: seizures); Cecil Shuart (friend of the McLeod's); Bob Ziel (Kim's father: Courtney Manor, various health concerns); Anita (Kristin Smith's mother: recovery from heart surgery).

For all of our ministries: for faithfulness in our ordained officers, the ability to lead and shepherd for the Elders, strength and energy for the Diaconate as they take on numerous projects, wisdom and a view of the Great Commission for Trustees, for our Sunday School program: attendance (especially for children's catechism), Sunday School teachers, for those who serve in the Missions Committee; for a stronger local outreach; and for our men's and women's ministry's that they would be a blessing to us and to others. That those who participate in these would be blessed as they humbly serve for the glory of God. That these ministries would facilitate growth in the grace and knowledge Christ and be fruitful. That God would raise up and send more faithful men to lead and serve. That we would be faithful in obedience to the Holy Scriptures, the Westminster Standards, and the Book of Church Order. That God would bless our Church with more families, couples, and individuals who desire to glorify God, grow in Christ, and serve in our Church's ministries.

For our worship services: That the Holy Spirit would work through the Ministry of the Word, Sacraments, and prayer for the salvation, sanctification, and preservation of God's people. That through these ordinary means, we would be built up in the faith once and for all delivered to the saints. That we would worship God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength. That Christ and him crucified would be preached faithfully, week in and week out. That the gospel would go forth and people would be brought into this local body. That God would send or raise up more musicians and singers to serve him with their gifts, especially a second pianist so that our pianist would be able to receive days of rest. That our giving would increase and be congruent with the blessings that God blessed us with. That we would properly sanctify the Lord's Day and attend to the means of grace. That our members would have a higher view of the Lord's Day and the

worship services, and this would be evident in the fruit of their attendance of our morning and evening services.

For our sanctuary improvement project: That God would provide the means and the labor for our pews to be reupholstered and re-painted, for the sanctuary to be re-painted, and for new carpet/flooring; that those who are able, would give towards this project as we anticipate our 150th year anniversary as a church.

OUR PRESBYTERY:

Redeemer Presbyterian, Holland, MI, - Pastor Charles Byrd (Lisa) Pray for the Lord's continued blessing on the church, numerical growth, and an increased joy in knowing our Lord. Pray for the Lord's blessing on our efforts to reach the over-churched in Holland with the saving gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray the Lord would raise up biblical counselors for the Shepherd's Way of Holland Biblical Counseling Center.

Covenant Presbyterian, Holland MI – Pastor Ken (Laurie) Klett—We are thankful to have secured someone to take the position of office manager to begin in the New Year. Prayers for transition to Kristen from Stacy who has served us over 20 years is appreciated. We are excited that we are now hosting American Heritage Girls along with Trail Life for boys. Prayer for the leadership and that this will be used to strengthen our youth and that it will also be an effective outreach tool. As many of our people will have family and friends visit our worship services this holiday season, we pray that we would be used by the Lord to edify the saints and witness to those who don't know Jesus as Savior. This is not just for our church, but our GLP congregations. Many of our people deal with intensified anxieties, sorrows, mourning, loneliness and even despair in the holiday season. We pray that the Lord will lift up the heads of the burdened and downcast and will find peace and solace in the Lord as they look to Him.

Trinity PCA, DeMotte IN (TE S Van Eck) -- Praise that TE Van Eck has recovered from a heart attack. Pray for his cardio therapy. Pray for members with health issues.

OUR COMMUNITY & COUNTRY:

That in our community, we would be faithful witnesses of our Lord Jesus Christ, ready to give a defense of the gospel and the hope that is in us. (1 Peter 3:15) That we would be lights in a dark place, salt in a flavorless world, a city on a hill.

That there would be a need for church planting Reformed Churches in the Thumb; for wisdom, provision, and buy-in regarding the starting a Christian School. That our local, state, and federal civil magistrates would lead, rule, make and enforce laws according to Scripture; that our state and federal laws would protect rather than allow for the destruction of the unborn. That all of our leaders would bend the knee to Christ and his Rule. For the protection of our armed forces, veterans, law enforcement, doctors, nurses, EMTs and all others serving in dangerous vocations, domestically and abroad.

That the Church in the United States would live according to God's Word and for his glory. That Christians would live quiet, godly, and dignified lives, setting an example for non-believers and bringing glory to God. That our lives and good works would bring God glory and direct others to him and his kingdom. That we would lose influence and the ability to witness because of hypocrisy in the church. That we would all "kiss the Son, lest he be angry." (Psalm 2) That God would raise up leaders who seek to bring him glory as they serve on behalf of the community, county, state, and federal levels. For the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches in our country. For the Church's protection from government overreach and that the right to gather and worship would protected regardless of the circumstances. That the Church in the United States would grow and thrive from a robust preaching of the Gospel and the whole counsel of God. That God would remove dead branches from the true church as well false churches who teach things contrary to Word of God or preach a false gospel. That he would be glorified in all of this.

OUR MISSIONARIES & THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH:

Pray for all of our missionaries: Jim DeWitt (Latin America), Lynn Hacker (Zambia), the Kawachi's (France), the Nachtergaele's (Belgium), and the Wilsons (Middle East), and the Shupes (Canada). This month, we pray in particular for the Nachtergaele's in Belgium. For our congregation: that we would be missionaries in our own contexts by inviting and bringing our family, friends, and neighbors to participate in the many opportunities for worship, fellowship, and learning that our Church offers. As Jesus said, "Lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest." That our new Missions budget would be a blessing to our foreign missionaries and facilitate more local outreach.

For persecuted Christians throughout the world who are suffering because of the Cross. That they would be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ, even unto death, and that their persecutors would be converted through their witness. This month we pray in particular for Christians living under Muslim oppression and persecution in Nigeria (7th most persecuted Christians in the world).

INFORMATION & STATISTICS

THE SESSION

Wayne Copeland

Ruling Elder, Missions

Chris Fluegge

Ruling Elder, Trustee

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Scott McDermand | Teaching Elder, Moderator |
| Jim Philp | Ruling Elder, Clerk, Trustee |
| Kim Ziel | Ruling Elder |

THE DIACONATE

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Bob Hobkirk | Board Member, Trustee |
| Allan McLeod | Board Member |
| Scott McDermand | Advisory Member, Moderator |
| Sharon Carpenter | Diaconal Assistant |
| Dan Clarkson | Diaconal Assistant |
| Greg Davis | Diaconal Assistant |
| Linda Herndon | Diaconal Assistant |
| Carol Holtrop | Diaconal Assistant |
| Lori McLeod | Diaconal Assistant |
| Alex Smith | Diaconal Assistant |

CHURCH ATTENDANCE: DECEMBER 21ST & CHRISTMAS

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| AM Service | 77 |
| AM Livestream | |
| AM AVG. 2025 | 65 |
| AM AVG. 2024 | 64 |
| PM Service | 8 |
| PM Livestream | |
| PM AVG. 2025 | 17 |
| PM AVG. 2024 | 14 |
| Christmas Eve | 64 |
| Christmas Morning | 34 |

GENERAL FUND GIVING

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| December Giving | \$ |
| December Budget | \$ |



The Annunciation

(Fra Angelico, 1440–45)