

*“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city.” Revelation 22:1*



*Allen Avenue CRC  
September 3, 2017*

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Prelude

Welcome and Announcements – Deanna VanderPloeg

Invitation to Quiet

\*Call To Worship

\*God's Greeting

\*Mutual Greeting

\*Hymns of Praise

*When We All Get To Heaven*

*When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder*

*Mansion Over the Hilltop*

Children's Message – Kellie Cavanaugh

Offering – General Fund, Calvin Seminary

\*Hymns of Praise:

Reading: *Revelation 21:1-4, 22-23, 25, 27*

*Jerusalem The Golden*

*By The Sea of Crystal*

Congregational Prayer and Prayer of Illumination– Pastor Ben

\*Scripture – Revelation 22:1-5

Scriptural Response:

**Pastor:** The Word of the Lord

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

Message – ***The Tree of Life***

\*Song of Application

*There in God's Garden*

\*Parting Blessing

\*Closing Song

*Soon & Very Soon*

\*Please stand if you are able

## Sermon Outline – Revelation 22:1-5

I. *The Context*: In the scope of redemptive history, where does Rev. 21 and Rev. 22 take place? Creation, Fall, Redemption, \_\_\_\_\_.

II. *The river of the water of life*:

A. Where is it located?

B. Who and what is the city?

C. Where does the river flow from?

III. *The Tree of Life*: where else in the Scriptures is there the tree of life?

A. Gen. \_\_\_\_\_. Dt. \_\_\_\_\_, Gal. \_\_\_\_\_, 1 Peter \_\_\_\_\_,

B. How does the cross and the tree of life come together here?

IV. The twelve fruits for all twelve months: what is this about (*c.f.* Psalm 1)?

V. Rev. 22:4 - We will see God face to face! What does that mean? (See Ex.3:6; 20:4; 33:14-23; Ps. 17:8-9 & 15, 42:2; Mt. 5:8; 1 John 3:2)

VI. The “No Mores” of the Consummation chs. 21-22

A. 21:1 \_\_\_\_\_

B. 21:4 \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

C. 22:3 \_\_\_\_\_

D. 22:5 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

VII. *Food for thought*: if the “old order things is passing away”, is the church here to build the Kingdom of Christ on earth as many teach? (See Isaiah 65:17-25; 1 Cor. 7:29-31; 2 Cor. 5:17, 1 John 2:17, Rev. 21:4)

VIII. What do you think of our inheritance in Christ?

## WELCOME TO ALLEN AVENUE

Welcome to all members and visitors who are worshipping with us today! We encourage any visitors and those who may be seeking a new church home to join us regularly for worship. Please join us for a cup of coffee or cold drink on the outside patio following the worship service.

Visitors – Please fill out one of the “Welcome” cards you will find in the cardholders on the back of the pews. After filling out the card, please place it in the offering plate as it is passed.

Leading us in worship is Pastor Benjamin Oliveira.

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please lift up in prayer our missions of the week – Matt and Katie DeKam, Honduras.

Our **shut-in of the week** is Lorraine Wolffis. Please remember her with prayers, cards, and phone calls. PH: 231.773.4311 - Room F-6, Seminole Shores Living Center, 850 Seminole Road, Norton Shores, MI 49441

## WEEKLY CALENDAR – September 3, 2017

**Friday:** 9:00 a.m. – Freezer Ministry \*see announcement

**Saturday:** 10:00 a.m. - Hearts to Hands Special Work Bee \*see announcement

## OFFERING INFORMATION

Today's Offerings – General Fund & Calvin Seminary  
September 10<sup>th</sup> – General Fund

September 17<sup>th</sup> – General Fund & Hearts to Hands

From the Council: **Last week's offering for the General Fund was \$4881.00.** Thank you for your faithful financial support.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Pastor Ben** will be **changing office hours** beginning this week due to class beginning September 6th. His new hours will be Tuesday morning 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you need something, you can always call his cell phone. 616.540.8525.

**Carmen** will also be **changing office hours** beginning this week due to a different school schedule for Naomi. They will be Tuesday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Freezer ministry** will start up again on Friday, September 8 from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. We can always use help! You don't need to be a great cook. If you can chop, stir, wash dishes or deliver food you are qualified. We also take donations of bread/rolls, desserts, and salads to be added to our delivered meals. Contact Kellie if you are interested 231.638.3506

**HEARTS TO HANDS:** Special Work Bee on Sat., Sept. 9th. 10 am. We have an abundance of "orphan" shield pieces that need the creative, loving hands of helpers to glue the odd pieces into whimsical, finished products. Please come for an hour or two to help us get this task accomplished. The more of us there are, the quicker we can get done. Thanks so much.

**Fellowship Breakfast** is Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. at Mr. B's. Please RSVP to Pearl Kitchen by Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. 231.744.1585.

Copies of the **September/October Allen Avenue News** are available at both entrances to the sanctuary.

**HEARTS TO HANDS:** We've lost track of some of the templates we have for tracing the sewing lines on the shields. If you happen to have one you are not using on a regular basis, PLEASE let Vicky know. Thanks. 231.740.6323

**Budgets for 2018** – Committees, don't forget to submit your updated budgets to the Treasurer, Jean Botting by **September 17<sup>th</sup>**.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS CON'T

**Did you know that our website has a page for "Church Life"?** This page is available to display pictures of church related activities. Things like Sunday school programs, Cadets, GEMS, small group activities and more. If you would like to show pictures of your activities, send your pictures to [dejonge.jack@gmail.com](mailto:dejonge.jack@gmail.com) [www.allenavechurch.org](http://www.allenavechurch.org)

**Small Groups for the Fall** – if you haven't received your book yet, please check your mailbox. Books are \$5.00 each, checks can be made out to Allen Avenue.

**Prayerfully consider nominations for the office of elder and deacon.** In 2018 we will be adding 3 elders (1 administrative and 2 shepherding) and 3 deacons (1 administrative and 2 shepherding). Please use the enclosed Nomination Forms. Instructions are printed on the form, there are baskets at both entrances to the sanctuary to collect them. **Nominations are due next week, September 10<sup>th</sup>.**

## REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Urgent need for Hurricane Harvey Recovery** - After a week of unrelenting rain, World Renew Disaster Response Services is preparing to respond to catastrophic flooding in Texas from Hurricane Harvey. You can help homeowners who are struggling to return home, now and in the weeks and years to come, with your financial donation for World Renew DRS Hurricane Harvey response. Please give generously today online at [worldrenew.net/donate](http://worldrenew.net/donate), call 800-552-7972, or mail your check, designated Hurricane Harvey 2017, to World Renew, 1700 28th St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508.

**The Christian Reformed Conference Grounds**, 12253 Lakeshore Drive, Grand Haven, hosts a travelogue **"National Treasures – Texas and Big Bend, New England & Acadia National Parks"** by John Dykstra Photography on Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. **Voices for Freedom**, an 8-part, a cappella, vocal ensemble composed of men and women from the greater Grand Rapids, Michigan area, will sing on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m.

## REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, join **Bible League International Volunteers** at Friendship CRC in Byron Center. Scott Griffin and Burt Kettinger will be in concert at 7:00 p.m.. An offering will be taken to provide Bibles for Africa. Contact Connie Reitsma 708.367.8595, [creitsma@bibleleague.org](mailto:creitsma@bibleleague.org) if you have any questions.

Please join us at our annual **West Michigan Christian School Golf Outing**, September 9<sup>th</sup>, at Thoroughbred Golf Club. Our goal is to help further the worthy cause of premiere Christian education. Every dollar raised at this event helps offset costs for our Christ-centered schools allowing each school to better steward their resources. Registration forms are available at both entrances to the sanctuary.

**"I just felt like running." - Forrest Gump** - If this quote applies to you and the passion for running is in your soul, please join us on Warrior Weekend, September 15-16, for the 1st ever **WMC 24 Hour Warrior Pledge Run!!** WMC parent, Michele Schipma, is passionate about running and Christian education and is using that passion and training to raise funds for WMC Tuition Assistance. Students, families, and the community can register to run or walk for 1 hour or more on the WMC school campus course. Just register and run (registration fee applies) or help Michele in her mission by collecting pledges and directly benefiting students and families at WMC! 100% of the registration fees and donations will go to the WMC Annual Fund. Registration forms are available at the entrances to the sanctuary, or contact Denice Belknap with questions [denicebelknap@wmchs.net](mailto:denicebelknap@wmchs.net) or 231-799-9644 ext 208.

**Calling all WMC soccer alum's** - WMC would like to welcome you back on Saturday, Sept. 16th for Warrior Weekend and to commemorate the 50th year of soccer at WMC! Free admission to the JV game (noon) and varsity game (2pm) will be given to all WMC soccer alum's. A group photo will take place at halftime of all the players/coaches who have helped the program through the years. We'll have 50th year commemorative T-shirts for free for players/coaches who play in the alumni game. Please help us spread the word! Looking forward to welcoming back those who laid the foundation for Warrior soccer!

## Prayer Concerns

**Sunday, September 3, 2017**

*Psalm 42:1–2 (NIV)*

- 1 As the deer pants for streams of water,  
so my soul pants for you, my God.
- 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.  
When can I go and meet with God?

**Residents in Texas:** Pray for the church and the residents of Texas. They are living through a devastating storm in Houston and surrounding areas.

**Gary and Tammy Schelske:** Gary and Tammy have had a rough couple of weeks. Continue to pray for them in this tough time.

**Allen Avenue:** We begin the process of picking new Elders and Deacons for 2018. Pray for those who God is calling to serve as office-bearers.

**Students/Teachers:** School has begun! Pray for teachers and students.

**Dawn Richardson:** Pray for Dan's sister and her family. She is coping with the continual progression of ALS. Pray the Lord will comfort them in this time of great suffering.

**Small Groups:** Pray for small groups as we go through An Autopsy of a Deceased Church. Ask the Lord to teach us as a congregation.

**Pastor Ben:** Pastor Ben begins his final class, and the writing of his major research paper. If all goes well, this will conclude his Th.M program this Fall. Please pray for his strength and clarity of mind in this work. Pray the Lord blesses him in this effort.



Prayer Concerns

Pray for the following members of Allen Ave:

**Our Senior Members and Shut-ins:**

Wilma Doctor	Donna Fongers
Ellen Huizenga	Marv Pike
Ott Van Andel	Dorothy VanDam
Lorraine Wolffis	Tressa Lubbers
Donna Bishop	

**Our Missionaries**

Angell Community Church	Muskegon
Eric and Judith	Western Asia
Stephan Lutz and Alicia Zents	Kenya
Rev. Jerry An	Back to God Ministries
Zuni Christian School	New Mexico
Stan and Bessie Kruis	Philippines
Matt and Katie DeKam	Honduras

## IN SERVICE AT ALLEN AVENUE

**Nursery Today:** Toni Schuitema, Taylor Johnson  
September 10 Charry Snyder, Shelby Schuitema  
September 17 Amber Johnson, Sydney Sytsema  
September 24 Laura Ridings, Daniel VanderPloeg

**Children In Worship Today:** Barb Malda, Marcia Breuker  
September 10 Beth Van Rees, Zoe Sytsema  
September 17 Beth Van Rees, Ellie DeKam  
September 24 Dale Johnson, Charlie VanderPloeg

**Greeters Today:** Pam Cole & Tillie Witt  
September 10 Dan & Arlene DeKam Family  
September 17 Dave & Joanne Bishop  
September 24 Phil & Charry Snyder Family

**Coffee Today:** Bob & Susan Vanderlaan  
Kelly Dauser  
September 10 Charlie & Deanna VanderPloeg  
Dan & Arlene DeKam  
September 17 Dave & Beth VanRees  
Howard & Carol Dirkse  
September 24 Cam & Melisa Vlasma  
Randy & Becky Fisher

**Congregational Prayer Next Sunday:** Lis Potts

**Announcements Next Sunday:** Bob Vanderlaan

**Sound Next Sunday:** Aaron Ridings

**Projection Next Sunday:** Laura Ridings

**Worship Team Next Sunday:** Bob Vanderlaan, Bob Botting, John Schuitema, Stan Rop, Mike Fongers

**Ushers for September:** Craig Bytwerk, Randy Fisher, Gord Peterman