

SLCRC MIDWEEK

December 19, 2018

J O Y

Jesus full of joy

But the fruit of the Spirit is joy – Galatians 5:22

Somewhere people have picked up the notion that Jesus went around with a sad, stern look on his face, joyless, devoid of warmth and humor. And while it is true that Isaiah prophesied that he would be “a man of sorrows” (Isaiah 53:3), Jesus was also a man of great inner strength and joy. Certainly he was on the earth to take care of some very serious business but through it all he was joyful because he knew he was carrying out his Father’s will.

The Bible describes him as “full of joy through the Holy Spirit.” In John 17:13, when Jesus prayed for his disciples he said, “I am these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.”

How will you share the joy of Jesus with others this Christmas Season? – Robert A. Schuler

THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 23, 2018 – DECEMBER 29, 2018

Sunday, Dec. 23: 9:30 am - Worship

Sunday, Dec. 23: 10:30 am – Coffee Fellowship

Tuesday, Dec. 25 10:00 am – Christmas Services at Grand Haven Christian School Gym

PRAYER CONCERNS

Remember the following friends and members who have health issues, are in a nursing home, are homebound, or experiencing personal cares and concerns:

Bob & Rhea Teunis – The Hume House at 1244 W. Southern Ave., Apt. 9, Muskegon, MI 49441

Ruth Wierenga, Etta Peterson, Henrietta Laning, - Homebound

George Wierenga is under hospice care and is at home.

Cheryl Rasinske – Harbor House in Jenison

Marshall Teunis – Marshall is at American House-17387 Oakcrest Parkway.

Henry & Amy Sterenberg – living at Lake Woods, 1684 Vulcan, Muskegon, MI 49442

Mickey Van Andel has returned home following therapy at Riverside Nursing Home

PRAYER REQUEST

George Suchecki has been released from the hospital in Ann Arbor and is now at a facility for therapy.

CONNECT

Connect will meet today Wednesday, December 19, at 6 pm. Come for pizza, followed by Christmas Caroling to our homebound and shut-ins.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

First Christian Reformed Church of Grand Haven has invited us, SLCRC, to join them for their Christmas Service on Christmas Day, December 25 at 10 am and we have accepted their invitation. First CRC is meeting in the Grand Haven Christian School Gym, 2201 Grant St. The offering is for Love in Action’s Sheltered Housing’s “guest needs.”

SOUND SYSTEM FUND DRIVE

As you are aware we recently have been experiencing sound system failures. The sound board is old and needs to be replaced. A new mixer sound board along with a new pastor's head set and additional wireless hand held will cost around \$6,100.00. We have a little over \$4,700.00 in the sound system fund. To assist with the shortage and to avoid depleting the sound system fund totally, Council is asking the congregation to participate in a Sound System Fund Drive in the amount of \$3,000.00. This would be over and above the regular budget. We would like to complete this by December 31, 2018. Therefore, we are asking the congregation to prayerfully consider helping us reach this goal. Please place your gift in an envelope and mark it as "Sound System" and place it in the offering plate or give it to one of the deacons by the end of December, 2018. Thank you for your financial gift.

TCM 2018 ANNUAL APPEAL: WE NEED YOUR HELP

Dear Friends - Access to mental health services continues to be an insurmountable challenge for many people in west Michigan so TCM Counseling's mission has never been more relevant and necessary. We are committed to helping everyone in Ottawa County who seeks help, regardless of their ability to pay. Please help us to continue to fulfill our mission to offer hope and healing for all by providing accessible and affordable professional counseling services.

Clients quickly learn that when they come to TCM Counseling they are treated with respect and kindness. One mother told us that all she wanted was for someone to treat her daughter like she was their daughter. She said that TCM and our therapist had done that. We believe everyone deserves to be treated that way. Ultimately, your donation to TCM Counseling supports people in the most fundamental way. Access to counseling helps an unemployed individual to seek and maintain a job; it improves a child's chances of succeeding in school; and it helps heal families that have been shattered by trauma, job loss or suicide. By contributing to TCM Counseling you are supporting the well-being of our entire community, and standing beside us, as we say that counseling should not be a luxury. **Please join our board, staff and therapist this holiday season in assuring everyone has access to counseling regardless of their ability to pay by donating to TCM Counseling**

With warm regards, Sarah Lewakowski, Executive Director

Silent Night by Josef Mohr, 1818

*Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child, Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.*

THE STORY BEHIND THE CAROL

Josef Mohr was pastor of the Church of St. Nicholas at Oberndorf, near Salzburg, Austria. After the Christmas Eve program in 1818, Mohr chose the longer way home that took him up over a hill overlooking the village. Reveling in the silence of the wintry night, he remembered a poem he had written. He decided those words might make a good carol for his congregation. He went to see the church organist, Franz Gruber, who had only a few hours to come up with a melody. On Christmas Eve, the little Oberndorf congregation heard Gruber and Mohr play their new carol. It spread across northern Europe, and in 1834, singers performed *Silent Night* for King Frederick William IV of Prussia, who then ordered his cathedral choir to sing it every Christmas Eve. Twenty years after *Silent Night* was written, the song was brought to the United States, in New York City's Trinity Church. *Silent Night* is now sung in more than 300 different languages around the world.