

# The Colfax Center HEARTLINE

HOLLAND, IA

November - December 2020

## “Making Much” in the Holiday Season

I love this time of year! Every year it seems we come to this point in the calendar when we flip from October to November, and we're surprised once again to be gazing upon a shockingly full schedule. From sporting events, to plays and musicals, charities, family visits, hosting, traveling, parties, gathering, celebrating...etc. This time of year can bring spectacular joy and excitement. I love making much of this season. And in a year that has broken the mold in so many ways, I've been thinking a lot about how to enter the holiday season well.

There's a lot that we've "Made Much" of in 2020. We've made much of personal freedoms. We've made much of public health, of biased media and political agendas. We've made much of race and racism. We've made much of patriotism; of support for troops, first responders, medical personnel and front-line workers. This is a year where we've made much of fear, hatred, disagreements, dissensions, polarization, and the foundations of our country and our community. We've made much of climate change, pandemics, natural disasters, the way things used to be, and the pivotal nature of this moment, this election, and this point in history for generations to come.

There is a great deal we've "made much" of in 2020. And rightly so. This year, as has often been stated, has been "unprecedented" in so many ways. But if there's one thing I would say about our response to this year, it's that in a lot of ways we've made too much of 2020. In the midst of the chaos and confusion, our pride and unbelief have taken on a unique character this year, and yet, the same areas of sin have crept their way into our hearts, convincing us that this moment in history and in our lives is pivotal to the future of our country and the world, and that if we and our country don't handle this year correctly, we are utterly doomed.

But here's the truth: this election, this pandemic, this social unrest, polarizing politics, climate change, corruption, threats to our freedoms and dangers to the nation; none of it changes the gospel. None of it changes the fact that Jesus has already triumphed over the powers of this world and over death itself. None of it can take Jesus off the throne. None of it can undo or stand against God's power, God's authority, God's Sovereignty and God's plan to redeem his people and his creation. In the face of it all, God wins. No matter what 2020 brings, or 2021 for that matter, there is no less reason to hope, no less reason to have faith, to sing praises to our God and to continue a life of devotion to and worship of Him. God is not overwhelmed by 2020.

So as we enter the holiday season, there's something else I would encourage us to Make Much of as a Church, and as a people in the midst of an unbelieving world. I would encourage us to Make Much of Jesus. Make Much of the Gospel and the hope that can only be found there. In a year where everyone is looking for hope, and something firm to cling to when it seems the world around is in chaos, I would invite us to Make Much of Christ. And, in the spirit of Christ, I would invite us to Make Much of our neighbor.

As we've been navigating the book of Colossians together in Worship this past month, the Apostle Paul has established the firm foundation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, His lordship over all the earth, and our eternal unity with Him. And then, once that foundation is laid, he tells his listeners to take off their old life and sinful practices, and instead put on something "New."

Listen to his words to the Colossian Church:

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Col. 3:12-17)

While the Holiday season can be filled to the brim with events, celebrations, family gatherings, food and fellowship, it can also be filled with loneliness, depression, anxiety and emptiness. So, as "God's chosen ones, holy and beloved," I would invite all of us to put on love, and be the hands and feet of Jesus; To be compassionate, kind, humble and meek. To let Christ's word dwell in our hearts, and sing praises to God, doing all in the name of the Lord Jesus. Whether that means calling your neighbor, dropping off an unexpected gift, spending time with those who are lonely, or simply helping someone in need; I invite all of us to slow down our pace, and, in the spirit and strength of Jesus, Make Much of Christ this Holiday Season.

May God bless you and your family, and would we as a church worship Him above all else this holiday season.

Your Humble Servant,

Pastor Luke



## Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child 2020



Time again for the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Ministry. Shoeboxes will be in back in the narthex. A box for filled boxes will be in the narthex as well. Please check boy or girl and place the sticker on top of box near the end of the box. Please put \$9.00 in the envelope which will be inside of the box. The last day to drop off at Church will be November 15<sup>th</sup>. Boxes will be collected that evening and taken to the drop off location. If you would like to donate money, contact Doreen or Marissa Getting. If you have any questions, please contact Harold Whitsell, Doreen Getting, or Marissa Getting.



### Colfax Center's Angel Tree Project 2020

Colfax Center Care Team along with our congregation will have the opportunity to participate in providing gifts for recovering sex traffic victims.

WATCH for details to come regarding the Angel Tree project supporting Wings of Refuge this Christmas season.

We Thank You for your ongoing love and support of this mission to show we truly care for these victims!



The little brown envelopes for donating to Christmas Sacks and Pastor Luke & his family's Christmas Gift will be in the Narthex in December. Please place them in the offering plate by December 18.

If you are unable to pick one up and would like to contribute, you can send your donation to:

Colfax Center Church,  
18935 K Ave, Holland 50642

Thank You!

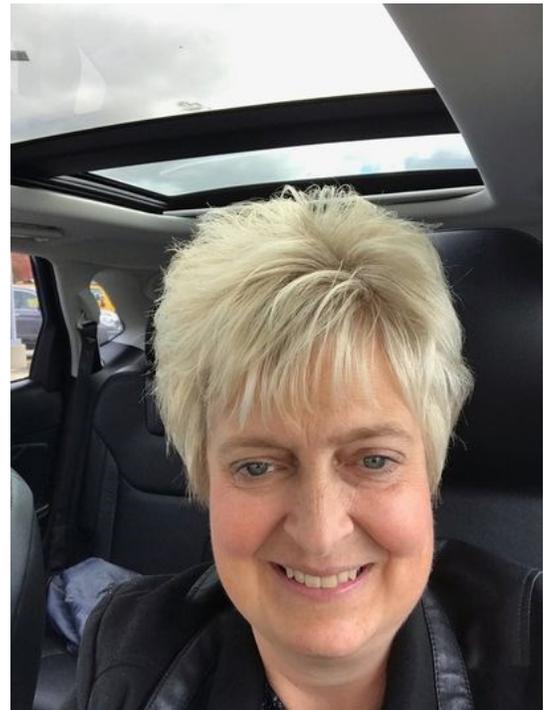
[Kevin Kimra Venenga](#) is with Kimra Venenga.

[October 20 at 8:17 PM](#) ·

Hi friends and family,

Most you know that because of my Lupus, I have developed kidney disease, and as a result, have been on the transplant list for the past year. I recently had my annual update with Mayo, and my disease continues to progress. So, while writing a post like this is uncomfortable for me, it is the best way for me to spread the word about my kidney failure. I look forward to the day when I am not tired, can feel well and live life to the fullest. While I am on the deceased donor list, that process could take approximately 5 years. So, the best option for me would be a living donor. This would be a HUGE decision for anyone. Whether or not you are my blood type would not matter. You can still be a donor. But you can also help me by spreading the word to anyone you know that may have a desire to be a living donor. For anyone that may be interested, please see the contact information below. Thank you for taking the time to read this post and if you are willing, please share this with your friends to help me get the word out.

Website: [mayoclinic.org/livingdonor](http://mayoclinic.org/livingdonor) - Once you have completed the online questionnaire, your information will be reviewed by a Living Donor RN Care Coordinator. You will be contacted either by email or phone. If you have questions, please call 866-227-1569





Thank You to those who shared flowers on Sundays in September and October.



*With Heartfelt Sympathy*

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Ken Harken, Dean Harrenstein, Norma Hook, Grace Ennenga, Lynn Kruger, and Jim Abels

**Funds Receiving Your Weekly Tithes & Offerings**

- ★ 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays: **General Fund**
- ★ 4th Sunday: **Mission Fund**
- ★ 5th Sunday: **Building/Maintenance Fund**
- ★ **Deacon Fund - please designate any Sunday**



**Need a Ride?**



If you need a ride to church, doctor appointments or any other transportation needs, please call:

SHEILA STEINMEYER CELL 319-269-1499  
SHERYL JOHNSON CELL 319-240-0922  
ELDON KRUGER HOME 319-824-6831

Thank you all for the cards, notes, and gifts you sent me for my birthday. All your acts of kindness made my birthday very special.

God Bless you all!  
Imogene Boomgarden

Thank you for the cards I received for my 96th Birthday.

Bernard Buskohl

**2020 Annual Reports are  
due in the Church Office  
by Monday,  
January 15, 2021.**

**Thank you!**



Let's fill the church with poinsettias in memory of our loved ones.

You can bring them to the lobby of the Educational Wing starting December 1st.

Please write your name and the name of the person(s) in whose memory it is being shared

**Colfax Center Mission Feast  
October 18, 2020**

**Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!**

**The Lord has blessed Colfax Center for many years through your giving on Mission Sundays. We are so thankful he blessed us beyond measure again in 2020. Thank you!**



Ben Thomas, although preaching virtually from Rwanda, was a blessing during morning worship and provided encouragement during Sunday School on what he and Susie are doing through B2TheWorld, an organization founded by them. They have the joy of leading the Kigali International Community School (KICS) in Kigali, Rwanda. KICS is home to over 30 nationalities. Ben and Susie cherish this opportunity to serve globally while preparing servant leaders to impact the world. Ben and Susie also have the joy of parenting Simon, Talya, Charlie, and Annie, four third-culture kids who love living in Rwanda.



Mike and Judy Christian were with us physically. They serve with CRU in Thailand. During the Sunday School hour, they shared the work they are involved in. Mike and Judy both grew up in Iowa as farm kids. They expressed a desire to serve God together in missions overseas in their dating years. In 1979, they headed to the Philippines as young carefree newlyweds on a journey to follow wherever God would lead. Little did they know that the first term of three years would turn into 41 years in Asia. 7 years in Manila, Philippines, 7 years in Bangkok, Thailand & the past 28 years in Chiang Mai. God blessed them with four daughters, raised in Asia and graduated from high school in Chiang Mai. They all went to college in the USA and all four girls love God and are serving Him full-time on the staff of Campus Crusade (CRU) with their families, which includes 11 grandchildren.



### November Birthdays

- 1 - Blake Eberline
- 2 - Doug Wiers
- 3 - Greeley Everts
- 4 - Kaselynn Nisius
- 5 - Kaden Davis,
- 7 - Waylon Stahl
- 8 - Kris Weis
- 9 - Brogan Schipper; Rob Weissenfluh,  
Mackenzie & Addilynn Heeren,
- 11 - Victoria Pruin, Janet Scott, Delwyn  
Tjepkes, Luke Wolfe
- 16 - David Diamond, Mallory Morris,  
Marvin Nederhoff
- 17 - Willie Hennig, Denise Lamfers
- 19 - Amanda Harken
- 21 - Ashley Kuhlman, Melaina Morris
- 23 - Mike Dieken
- 26 - Ethel Buskohl, Jordan Launstein
- 27 - Charlize Arends, Kendall Neessen
- 29 - Amy Stahl

### December Birthdays

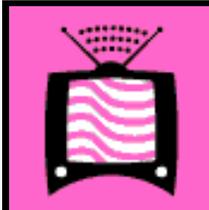
- 2 - Doris Guilford, Wendy Reifsteck
- 10 - Mollie Grames
- 11 - Julie Harrenstein, Tom Simms,  
Marlys Vogt, Bryleigh Albers
- 13 - Jolyn Stahl
- 17 - Denise Lamfers
- 18 - Carol Blythe, Carl Kruger,  
Aimee Wolfe
- 19 - Quinten Eberline, Tracy Voss

### December Birthdays Cont'd

- 22 - Chad Pruisner, Mardean Willis
- 23 - Amber Eberline, Carlie Willis
- 25 - Briar Klaver
- 26 - Hannah Redix, Alexis VanZuuk
- 27 - Brooks Annesley, Mary Bakker,  
Dirk Janssen, Drew Janssen
- 30 - Dorothy Westerman

### Early January Birthdays

- 1 - Wendell Voss
- 2 - Toni Arends,
- 3 - Amanda Harken, Brett Morris,  
Sarah Steinmeyer
- 4 - Ryan Stahl
- 5 - Angie Bech, Joyce Stahl
- 8 - Kathy Anderson, Emily Crosley



### **GRUNDY CENTER CABLE CHANNEL NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2020**

<b>St. Gabriel Catholic Church</b>	<b>Nov. 1</b>	Nov. 3 & 8
<b>First Presbyterian Church</b>	<b>Nov. 8</b>	Nov. 10 & 15
<b>United Methodist Church</b>	<b>Nov. 15</b>	Nov. 17 & 22
<b>Ivester Church of the Brethren</b>	<b>Nov. 22</b>	Nov. 24 & 29
<b>American Lutheran Church</b>	<b>Nov. 29</b>	Dec. 1 & 6
<b>Pleasant Valley Church</b>	<b>Dec. 6</b>	Dec. 8 & 13
<b>Bethany Presbyterian Church</b>	<b>Dec. 13</b>	Dec. 15 & 20
<b>Colfax Center Church</b>	<b>Dec. 20</b>	Dec. 22 & 27
<b>First Baptist Church</b>	<b>Dec. 27</b>	Dec. 29 & Jan. 3



**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER  
ELEVATOR ATTENDANTS**

Nov 1	Chuck Thoren
Nov 8	Mike Dieken
Nov 15	Jesse Willis
Nov 22	Paul Smit
Nov 29	Doug Wiers
Dec 6	Chuck Thoren
Dec 13	Mike Dieken
Dec 20	Jesse Willis
Dec 27	Paul Smit



**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

*Morning Worship*

*Sunday School*

Nov 1	Sheila S/Sheryl J	Sandy Wiers
Nov 8	Diekens	Amanda Everts
Nov 15	Shawn & Emily Albers	Amy Launstein
Nov 22	Blake & Britny Eberline	Lori Willis
Nov 29	Wolfes	Sandy Wiers
Dec 6	Coty & Kamille Albers	Doug Wiers
Dec 13	Everts	Sheila Steinmeyer
Dec 20	Sheryl J/Sheila S	Sandy Wiers
Dec 27	Wiers	Sheryl Johnson



**NOVEMBER-DECEMBER  
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

Nov 1	Doug & Sandy Wiers
Nov 8	<b>Veterans Day (Care Team)</b>
Nov 22	Larry & Carolyn Stahl
Nov 29	Jesse, Lori, Mardean Willis
Dec 6	Steinmeyer/Samo
Dec 13	Nathan & Amy Stahl
Dec 20	Fran H; Carol K, Wava H
Dec 27	Donn & Pam Anderson



**NOVEMBER-DECEMBER  
FLOWER SCHEDULE**

Nov 1 - Still Available  
 Nov 8 - Still Available  
 Nov 15- Still Available  
 Nov 22- Still Available  
 Nov 29 -Still Available

Dec 6 - Poinsettias  
 Dec 13 - Poinsettias  
 Dec 20 - Poinsettias  
 Dec 27 - Poinsettias