

**Welcome visitors!** We are glad you could worship with us today.

*Please fill out a Welcome Card in the pew and put it in the offering plate to help us connect with you!*

**Men's Bible Study** – Tuesday evenings 6:30-8p, Jan. 7–Feb. 18. Lots of Christians talk about the gospel, but how does it actually shape every aspect of our lives? Join us Tuesday nights this winter to find out. No homework. Feel free to invite friends and be sure to register so we have enough materials prepared. Sign up in the Narthex or by scanning the QR code on your bulletin insert. Questions? Contact Pastor Luke (763-670-7337).

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** – December 24. Doors open 4:30p with cookies and hot chocolate bar, service at 5p. We will have our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, featuring the singing of Christmas hymns, a message and finishing with a candlelit singing of Silent Night. You won't want to miss it!

**Angel Tree** – Angel Tree gifts are due today.

**Donation Envelopes** – The little brown envelopes for donating to Christmas Sacks and Pastor Luke and his family's Christmas gift are in the Narthex. They are due today.

**Christmas Program** – The program is tonight at 5:30pm. Colfax Center Kids will be presenting "New Star." A reception and meal will follow.

**Poinsettias in December** – Poinsettias in memory of loved ones may be brought in the lobby of the educational wing. Please write your name and the name of the person(s) in whose memory it is being shared on the bottom of the plant.

**Newsletter** – All content submissions for the January-February newsletter are due to Patti Norris by Sunday, December 22.  
(secretary@colfaxcenterchurch.org)

## Colfax Center Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)  
18935 K Ave  
Holland, IA 50642

Pastor Luke Wolfe (763) 670-7337  
Church Phone (319) 824-5231



**"A Church in the Country, For the Community"**



Sunday December 15, 2024

## Reflection Before Worship

True humility is a healthy thing. The humble man accepts the truth about himself. He believes that in his fallen nature dwells no good thing. He acknowledges that apart from God he is nothing, has nothing, knows nothing and can do nothing. But this knowledge does not discourage him, for he knows also that in Christ he is somebody. He knows that he is dearer to God than the apple of His eye and that he can do all things through Christ who strengthens him; that is, he can do all that lies within the will of God for him to do. . . .When this belief becomes so much a part of a man that it operates as a kind of unconscious reflex . . . the emphasis of his life shifts from self to Christ, where it should have been in the first place, and he is thus set free to serve his generation by the will of God without the thousand hindrances he knew before.

A. W. Tozer

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## Prelude

### Announcements

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

*Salo Family*

### \*Call to Worship

Psalm 96:1-3

Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

### \*Hymn of Praise

GHF 91 – The First Noel  
(vv. 1, 2, 4)

### Call to Confession

1 Chronicles 29:10-11, 14-15

Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: “Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. . . .“But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding.

## Prayer of Adoration and Confession

### Assurance of Pardon

Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

### Welcoming New Members

*Jim and Janice Steinmeyer*

### \*Song of Celebration

GHF 99 – Angels From the Realms of Glory  
(vv. 1, 2, 4)

### Worship Through Giving

General Fund

### \*Doxology

### \*Confession of Faith

*New City Catechism #19-20*

*Q: Is there any way to escape punishment and be brought back into God's favor?*

**A: Yes, to satisfy his justice, God himself, out of mere mercy, reconciles us to himself and delivers us from sin and from the punishment for sin, by a Redeemer.**

*Q: Who is the Redeemer?*

**A: The only Redeemer is the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, in whom God became man and bore the penalty for sin himself.**

### \*Greeting

*Leader: “The grace and peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you”*

**Congregation: “And also with you”**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Supplication

### Reading of God's Word

John 3:22-36

### Sermon

“He Must Increase”

Pastor Luke Wolfe

### \*Song of Response

GHF 87 – Joy to the World

## Benediction and Postlude

*\*Those who are able, please stand*

## **This Week at Colfax**

### **Sunday, December 15**

- 9:00a – “Coffee Chat”
  - 9:30a – Morning Worship
  - 10:30a – Coffee Fellowship
  - 11:00a – Sunday School All Ages
  - 5:30p – Christmas Program
- A Reception and meal to follow

### **Tuesday, December 17**

- 2:00p - The Care Team – Arlington Place
- All Invited

### **Wednesday, December 18**

- 6:15p – Chaos @ Orchard Hill
- 7:00p – Friends First @ Orchard Hill

### **Sunday, December 22**

- 9:00a – “Coffee Chat”
- 9:30a – Morning Worship
- 10:30a – Coffee Fellowship
- 11:00a – Sunday School All Ages
- 6:30p – Women’s Prayer Group

### **Serving Sunday, December 22**

- Coffee Chat:** Launstein Family
- Coffee Fellowship:** Steinmeyer & Samo
- Greeters:** Johnsons & Harberts
- Nursery Worship:** Launstein Family
- Nurse (SS):** Launstein Family
- Elevator Attendant:** Curt B
- PowerPoint:** Taylor L
- Camera:** Steve J
- Sound:** Larry F

Call the church, 319-824-5231, or email [secretary@colfaxcenterchurch.org](mailto:secretary@colfaxcenterchurch.org) of upcoming meetings to ensure building access and up-to-date calendars.

**Please communicate all announcements to the church office weekly by 3:00 p.m. Wednesdays.**

## COLFAX CENTER PRAISES & PRAYER CONCERNS

As you go to the Lord in prayer, please read the following scripture:  
**Romans 12:12** *“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”*

### **Our nation and its leaders.**

### **The ministries of our church:**

- Pastor Luke, Aimee, and their family
- Elders & Deacons as they lead the church.
- Current Elders: Leon Johnson, Dean Salo, Curt Tjepkes, Tom Simms, Donn Anderson, Paul Smit
- Current Deacons: Jesse Willis, Coty Albers, Shawn Albers, Blake Eberline, Bryce Eberline, Jim Beninga, Curt Bakker & Trent Siefken
- Our Children’s Ministries
- The hearts of our congregation
- Our Missionaries, especially those in sensitive countries.

**Iowa Presbytery:** - Cornerstone PCA (Ackley, IA)

### **Medical Prayer Request**

- Marcia Andersen** – For healing of cancer.
- Sheryl Johnson** – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Kristie Salo** – For healing from surgery.
- Hillary Reents** – For healing from surgery.
- Roger Ziesman** – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Julie Tjepkes** – For healing from surgery.

**Pray also for** - Our armed forces (Mary Pruisner, and Jacob Eilers). Also, those who are anxious, discouraged, facing difficult family situations, struggling with sin, or do not know Christ.

### **Those who are shut-in or in nursing homes:**

Mary Bakker; Ethel Buskohl; Marvin & Verone Nederhoff; Margie Kuhlman, Shirley Luwe.

Sermon Notes  
“He Must Increase”

1. Understanding the Cost of the Gospel
2. Why We Resist the Cost of the Gospel
3. How we Bear the Cost of the Gospel