

The Orchard Weekly

December 27, 2020
Issue 39

Mark Your Calendar

For week of Dec. 27

Sunday

9:30am Morning Worship

Monday

7pm Deacons Meeting

Tuesday

Office is Closed

Friday

Office is Closed

Sunday

9:30am Morning Worship

6:00pm Evening Worship

Church Family

Directory Correction: New Address for Jon & Jalyne De Zwaan, P.O. Box 2073, Holland, MI 49422

Birthdays this week: 12/27 Addison Tenente, 12/29 Kim Mulder, Madelyn Yonker 1/1 Pamela Brown, Lori Bulthuis, David Koolhaas, Dayna Koolhaas, Doug Van Dyken 1/2 Tiffany Kamper

Anniversaries this week: 12/31 Jordan & Rachel Goslinga, Hans & Susan Oines

Offering Schedule

1/3—Ripon Christian Tuition Assistance

1/10—General Fund

1/17—Modesto Pregnancy Center/
Bethany Christian Services

1/24—YWAM: Hans & Susan Oines

1/31—Resonate Global Missions: Gho

From the Pastors

Merry Christmas brothers and sisters of Almond Valley. In seminary a professor once taught me that with every challenge comes an opportunity. This past year has provided us all with many challenges, but that also means we have had countless opportunities to grow in Christ in new ways. This is also true of the personal and congregational difficulties we face during Christmas. As plans have been adjusted or cancelled we have all been forced to ask what really matters. Thankfully, what matters most for the Christian cannot be ruined, outlawed, or taken away. I pray you will find time this Christmas to recognize the centrality of Jesus Christ in your life and how nothing can separate us from his love. Grace, mercy, and peace to you as you celebrate his birth! - Pastor Mark VanDyke

Thank you for all the many and varied kindnesses we have experienced from our Almond Valley family as we journey through Pastor Phil's illness. Above all, we thank our God for the gift of Jesus, whose birth we celebrated this week and the salvation and hope He brings.
- Pastor Phil and Joyce

On March 11th Steve Vander Molen told me that this whole coronavirus thing was going to have drastic effects on our world. I wasn't sure I believed him at the time, but it turns out he was clearly right. This year has shaken up so much, both for our youth groups and for my personal life. Little did I know at the time that the youth groups would be forced to meet online starting the following week, that Bailey and I would be married 9 days later, and that we'd be starting our marriage in quarantine. But while it's all been very hard, I can't say it's been a bad year, or that the Lord hasn't been gracious to us. Our youth groups continued to thrive through the season of online meetings, and our marriage has grown tremendously throughout the difficult months of stress and isolation. As many of you know, our landlord sold our property this October, so we are now moved out of our home on Kiernan Ave and are temporarily living at Bailey's grandma's home (2800 Dunn Rd, Modesto CA 95358) until mid-January when we'll be moving into our new home in Ripon (906 Baker Dr.). Throughout this whole year, there has been a lot of pain from losing our wedding and our home, but we have constantly been reminded of God's goodness to us, and we're excited (as I'm sure all of you are) to see what He has for us in 2021. Thank you, Almond Valley, for being such a loving home for us. We love you all! - Pastor Zac and Bailey

Announcements

Attention MS and HS Students! — Just because it's Christmas break doesn't mean we can't hang out together online! Our MS group will be meeting up on Tuesday, December 29th from 7:00-8:00pm and our HS group will be gathering on Wednesday, December 30th from 7:00-8:00pm. These virtual gatherings will be a great time to hang out, catch up, and reflect on Scripture together. Pastor Zac sent out emails with the meeting links to parents this past week, so if you did not get one please email him at zdewey@almondvalley.org.

2021 Budget Envelopes will be available for pickup this week. Since mailboxes are not in use at this time, you can find them on the table in the narthex. This will be available all week during regular office hours or on Sundays.

Secret Sisters- Oh the pandemic outside is frightful. To be together would be so delightful. But since we've no place to go. Let them know, let them know, let them know! Ladies, the time has come to wrap up the secret sister year. We encourage you to find a safe and creative way to reveal to your secret sister who you are before the New Year. We, the Women's Ministry committee, pray that you have a safe and happy Christmas season and hope we can fellowship with you again soon.

Gospel Mission Clothing Drive: We will be collecting gently used and new clothing for the Mission through mid January. If you have coats, hats, socks, gloves or any general clothing items, please bring it to church and place in the bins in the narthex. Contact: Bill Butterman, Richard Brown

World Renew Giving Tree will be available through the end of the year. Check out the item tags to see what you can gift this year. Payment can be made directly to WorldRenew.net/gifts OR you can turn in your tags along with payment to the church office.

Job Opportunity at Immanuel CRC: Immanuel is seeking a Church Secretary. This is a 20-24 hour per week position. Applications and job descriptions are available from the church office or from Nate Finley, nate@immanuelcrc.org. Please submit your application to the church office by Friday, January 8.

Weekly Prayer Guide

Monday - Pray for all those who experience depression in this holiday season. This year is especially difficult because of distancing guidelines and lockdowns.

Tuesday - Pray for those in our congregation who are suffering serious medical conditions. Pray also for their families who walk with them through their trials. It is especially frustrating when visitations are restricted.

Wednesday - Thank God that Almond Valley Church is on a solid financial footing. Thank God that most of our members are still working, and that the harvest has been plentiful.

Thursday - As we remember this past year, we can still say, "God is good".

Friday - As we enter this new year, pray that God will strengthen us in our faith, and bless us as a congregation. May the great commission be a reality in our lives and in our church as we serve God together.

Saturday - Pray for our missionaries as they share the good news in other countries. Thank God that through technology, they can at least see and talk to their loved ones whom they are far away from.

Sunday - Praise God that we can worship together, even if it is online. Pray for Pastor Mark and the praise team as they lead the services. May God be praised.

TODAY Devotionals

The TODAY devotionals have not arrived due to a busy postal season. The reorder will not be shipped until January 4th.

If you have access to a computer you can go to today.reframemedia.com to read the daily devotional.

The large print devotionals will be mailed out as soon as we receive them.

See the table below for all our in-person and online worship opportunities at Almond Valley. Please note that there will be no evening service on Sunday, December 27 and Almond Valley will not have a New Year's Eve service this year.

	Morning Worship	Evening Worship – 6:00 PM
Friday, Dec. 25	<p>Christmas Morning Worship Service 10:00 AM</p> <p>Join us in person or online for a special service of celebrating Jesus' birth.</p>	
Sunday, Dec. 27	<p>"The State of the Christian Reformed Church"</p> <p>Jude 17-25</p>	No Evening Service