

San Jose Christian Reformed Church

“God’s love to us, God’s love through us...”

May the Lord bless us all as we worship Him here this morning.

Pastor Al Helder will be preaching for us today,

We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors!

Sunday, October 22, 2006
Celebrating as God’s People

Celebrating God with Praise

Prelude: Our preparation for Worship

Call to Worship / Welcome / Greetings

Offering Praise to God: *“From the Ends of the Earth”*
“To God Be the Glory”

Intimacy with God: Confession and Prayer

Call to Confession: *“Change My Heart, O God”*

“Leaving the Burden Here” Silent personal time with God

Assurance of the Gospel: *“Living Water”*-solo by Tonya M.

Congregational Prayer

Children ages 3 through grade 6 leave us for “Kids’ Life”

Offerings to God: Surrender in Gratitude and Love

Offering Ourselves: *“Lord, Make Us Servants”*

Deacon’s Prayer

Offering Our Gifts: Church Ministry Fund

Special Offering: Ministry Shares

Instruction from God’s Word

Text from the Lord’s Prayer: *“Forgive us our sin, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.”*

Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

Responsive Reading: Romans 8:1-2, 15-17

Pastor: “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

People: because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.”

Pastor: “For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba” Father.

People: The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are God’s children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

Message: *“Forgiven and Forgiving”*

Prayer

Leaving to Serve

Song: *“Lord, I Want to be Like Jesus”*

Blessing

Closing Song: *“Go My Children”*

If you are a first time visitor today, please complete a “Communication Card” and stop by the welcome table in the back of the sanctuary for a gift and information packet. Please join us for “Coffee Time” at 10:40. Classes for children, youth, and adults meet at 11 am.

Next Sunday at SJCRC...

October 29, 9:30 am: Worship Service- Pastor Al Helder will be preaching. Special Offering: Home Missions. **Congregational Meeting** in the sanctuary immediately after the morning worship service. Please join us for “Coffee Time” after the Congregational Meeting. The adult class meets in the Fireside Room at 11:00 for Pastor Al’s class: “How to Read and Understand the Bible”. Classes for children and youth also meet at 11:00: FUNday School (preschool through grade 5) meets in the “Tri-rooms”, JJs (jr. high) meets in “The Gym”, and Sonlife (high school) meets in “The Loft”.

Congregational Vote in Collaboration with Your Council

Following extensive research, interviews and prayerful consideration, our Search Committee has unanimously recommended to Council that Dr. Bruce Ballast be considered for call to the office of Pastor of the San Jose CRC. After prayerful consideration of this recommendation, your Council has unanimously agreed and has directed that a Congregational Meeting be held **Sunday, October 29th**, immediately after the worship service, to receive the Congregation’s input with regard to calling Dr. Ballast.

The question on the ballot will be, “Should Dr. Bruce Ballast be nominated for call to the Office of Pastor of the San Jose Christian Reformed Church?”

Subsequently, the Council will consider the results of this vote together with the previous recommendation of the Pastor Search Committee and information from other sources to decide whether or not a call will be extended to Pastor Ballast.

Members in good standing over 18 years of age will be permitted to vote. Members who cannot be present for this vote may participate by delivering signed statements indicating their response to this issue. Absentee ballots must be delivered to the Church Office by 9:15 A.M. on Sunday October 29th.

Church News and Events

Choir will hold it's second rehearsal this week Thursday at 8:00 pm: Please join us now as we prepare music for the Christmas season. All singers welcome!

Reserve this date, Saturday, November 4, 8:00 am to 10:00 am. The Deacons invite the congregation to a "Pancake Breakfast". Come and bring your friends and family to enjoy delicious pancakes made by the Deacons themselves. Please plan to attend.

“Musicpalooza 2006: America in Song” is coming to San Jose CRC!

Members of SJCRC and members of New Creation Lutheran Church will be performing one encore performance of this musical to benefit our own ministry (lighting and sound here in our sanctuary). Everyone is invited to the performance on **Saturday, November 4 at 7:30 pm:** dessert and fellowship after the program. Admission is \$7.50 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Please contact Deb U. (229-8267) for more information.

The November/December Volunteer Schedules are in your mail folders in the Social Hall. Please pick up your copy today!

Stephen's Ministry: Substance abuse can span all ages and family situations. Does this problem affect you or someone important to you? Would you like to talk about it? Stephen Ministers are supportive members of our church who have been trained to be a confidential resource. If you, or someone you know, would like to talk to a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Al or Brenda L. We want to be there for you.

Love one another as I love you... loving as Jesus calls us to in today's world can be difficult in modern, busy lives. Fall in love all over again on a Reformed Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is Mar. 2-4, 2007 in Modesto, CA. **NOW** is not too early to register with Roger and Edie Dornbush, (530) 662 5632 or go on line at www.reformedme.org for more information and registration.

Church Bulletin: Miss a service? Current and archived bulletins are online at www.sjcrc.org. **Please have any bulletin announcements for this coming Sunday into the office by Thursday evening at the latest.**

All Groups and Teams: a reminder to please remember to turn off lights and lock all windows and doors securely upon leaving your meetings. Thank you.

Our Church Family

Pray for our church. Please remember:

- our youth (JJs and Sonlife) as they spend time learning and having a great time together.
- our GEMS and Cadets: we continue our partnership with other churches and are seeing wonderful growth and enthusiasm.
- our Sunday children's groups: we experience good attendance and are thankful for a faithful staff.
- our men's and women's Bible studies
- our various teams as they seek God's direction for our church
- God's leading as we make decisions regarding a new Pastor

Please pray for these personal needs:

* **Jeff B.** – Jeff went home from the hospital on Wednesday where he continues to recover. He will continue with therapy at home and daily radiation treatments at Mission Oaks. The family extends their love to the congregation. Thanking you for the continued prayers, wonderful meals, kind words and deeds. Please keep praying for Jeff, Estella and Brendan during this difficult time of uncertainty.

* **Charlie B., Irvin D., Bill G., Rein G. and Cobe R.**

Please pray for these members of our church family who have continuing health problems. Remember these friends with your cards and visits: they appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Please be in prayer for Jennifer C.'s mother, Linda H., who recently had extensive surgery. She is making a good recovery from the surgery, and will begin treatment in a couple of weeks. Also, remember Jennifer and her family.

Congratulations to the Henry and Ann M. Family on the birth of a baby boy born to David and Laura M. in Modesto. Drew William M. was born on Friday, October 20. We praise God with the family for this beautiful new addition!

Elder-Deacon Care Groupings: Elder/Deacon phone numbers are in the church directory. **Please inform them directly** of any need you might have.

Last Name Beginning:	Elder	Deacon
A-B	Doug P.	Mark L.
C-F	Jake B.	Steve S.
G-Ki	Harvey V.	Dan M.
Ko-L	Steve B.	Bruce G.
M-O	Bryan P.	Doug B.
P-S	Pastor Al H.	Steve M.
T-Z	Randy M.	Gert B.

To contact Pastor Al Helder: Please call his cell phone: (209) 614-5761 or the church office: (408) 266-4412 Email: PastorAl@sjcrc.org

COUNCIL REPORT – October 22, 2006

Some of you have been asking members of the Search Committee and Council questions concerning the process of calling a new pastor in the Christian Reformed Church (CRC). This letter will try to answer some of your questions as best as can be done in a brief insert.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS USED IN THE CRC? Generally, the council of a church with a pastoral vacancy establishes a search committee to interview interested candidates and gather information about the candidates from other sources. The process culminates in a recommendation from the committee to the council that it take the steps necessary to extend a call (1) to a particular candidate (called a “mono”) or (2) to one of a list of two or three candidates (called a “duo” or “trio”).

Council can reject or approve the recommendation of the search committee. If approved, Council invites the candidate to visit with the congregation. The Council then decides to either ask the congregation to indicate whether or not they approve the candidate(s) or asks the search team to continue working. Assuming Council proceeds to the congregation, if the candidate is a “mono” candidate, the congregation indicates whether or not they believe his gifts match the needs of the church. If the candidacy is a “duo” candidacy, the results indicate which candidate’s gifts more closely match the church’s needs.

Council takes the results and all other relevant information it has gathered from the search committee and other sources into the decision-making process. Council then makes the decision to extend or not extend a call to a candidate.

IS IT BETTER TO CONSIDER A “MONO”, a “DUO” or a “TRIO” CANDIDACY? The trend in the CRC is toward “mono” candidacies. There are many good reasons that support the “mono” candidacy approach and SJCRC has decided to adopt this approach.

First, congregational input on two (or more) candidates, in parallel, at one time has the negative consequence of "burning through" the limited number of qualified candidates very quickly, leaving only the less-qualified candidates.

There are essentially two reasons for this: (1) If both candidates are viewed by the congregation quite equally, there is a strong probability each could receive about a 50% approval rating. Council would then probably be reluctant to call either of them. (2) If, on the other hand, one was overwhelmingly approved, was called, and declined the call, council would probably not have enough confidence in the “second-place” candidate because of the low approval rating, a rating that may have been much higher if he had been presented in a “mono” candidacy. Further, if the candidate knew he was second on a list, he may decide to decline the call for that reason alone, even if he was called later.

Candidates have also expressed an aversion to elections that could possibly turn into "popularity contests" where winners and losers are "declared". In summary, both search

committees and candidates alike have expressed a strong preference for the "serial" approach to consideration of candidates for call.

Additionally, search committees today typically engage in a process that is much more rigorous and intense than it was even a few short years ago. The reason for the more intense and rigorous process is to determine optimal fit of the congregational vision and needs with an individual minister's gifts, calling and goals. This more intense process generally results in much higher success rates, overall superior ministry and higher minister/congregation compatibility and performance.

Members of the search committee and council spend hours and hours in interviews with the candidate and his references; socialize with the candidate and his spouse; talk with people who know and/or have worked with the candidate for long periods of time; talk with classical and denominational personnel; listen to taped sermons; and read papers, articles and books written by the candidate. This material is so much easier to obtain in this “information age” and, as a result, the Search Committee and Council have many more “data points” than in years past.

Moreover, because of the rigor and intensity of the process, candidates themselves are now required to invest much more time into the consideration of each and every ministry call opportunity. It is a better investment of their time and efforts to be considered in a “mono” candidacy as well.

It is also true that better decisions are generally made when the attributes of the best available candidate are scrutinized and a “yes/no” decision is made based on those attributes, rather than trying to compare the attributes of two candidates who may have different attributes that cannot be compared directly.

Last, Council believes that our congregation is discerning and well informed and will only support a “mono” candidate they feel is the right person to lead our church. Moreover, Council will not extend a call to a candidate if the congregation does not overwhelmingly indicate its support for him.