

**Council report for December and January:** At the last two meetings, besides completing the regular business that was on the agenda, council spent considerable time in discussion. At the December meeting the elders and deacons thought about and answered questions like: Why do we do what we do? What do we do well and what needs improvement? Looking forward, what should our priorities be? How do we attract others to join our congregation and worship with us? Are the pastors, deacons and elders ministering faithfully and effectively? Thinking about these questions will prepare the council members to share with the church visitors when they attend the council meeting on February 11. At the January meeting, council members and the pastors discussed the topic "Welcoming children to the Lord's Table". Discussing this topic does not mean that council is promoting that children be invited to partake of the Lord's Supper. Rather, it is important for the elders and deacons to know and understand why Synod decided in 2011 to allow this practice, why some churches have allowed and promoted it and why other churches in the CRC have not. Council members discussed questions like: What does membership in Williamsburg CRC signify? Why is participation in the Lord's Supper tied to membership? Do we exclude some people by not allowing them to participate? At what age are children or young people able to understand the significance of partaking in the Lord's Supper? Council members have been asked to read about and talk about this topic and it will be addressed again at the March council meeting. Please pray for wisdom for the pastors, deacons and elders as they strive to serve God and lead His church here in Williamsburg.