



CRETE CHURCH

CONNECT + RENEW + GO

WHO WE ARE
2017

CRETE CHURCH PROFILE 2017

Crete Church is a **welcoming** body of believers following Christ as our head, adhering to the Bible as our only source of truth, and seeking Him and His will in prayer. We are a member of the Presbyterian Church of America, a session led church adhering to the PCA Book of Church Order. We are blessed to have dedicated ministry leaders and a fully engaged staff. We are welcoming to all, and demonstrate our outreach commitment by involvement in our community including sponsoring Vacation Bible School, GEMS Girls' Club, Cadets Boys' Club, The Edge Community Coffee House, and host to the Crete Bulldogs Football League. Our worship glorifies God in a broadly blended format that includes both "traditional" and "contemporary" elements, with all ages participating. Our congregation is fun, friendly, caring and supportive. We are a congregation of approximately 105 families with about 150 gathering together for Sunday Worship and a budget around \$400,000.

MISSION AND VISION

CONNECT with God and Community

RENEW people by His Word

GO where He leads

OUR HISTORY

Crete Church was originally established as Crete Reformed Church in the mid-1960's by some families in the Crete-Beecher area. They were eager to plant a church with Reformed/ Presbyterian beliefs since there were no other churches in this region of this persuasion at the time.

The church eventually began meeting in the Crete-Monee schools and built its first church home between the Old Plank Trail Bank and the High School on Exchange Street. The church continued to grow until they exceeded the building's capacity in the late 1980's.

The church leaders had a vision to replant and expand the church and reach more people with the good news of Jesus. This vision became a reality in the early 1990's when land was obtained across from Walt's Foods and the original building was sold. On the new site near Illinois Route 394, construction began on a much larger facility. During the two-year construction period, Crete Church occupied space in Village Woods, a retirement center a few miles south of our current location.

In 2015 Crete Church along with five other Reformed Church of America churches in the area left the RCA and became members of the PCA, Presbyterian Church of America.

We believe the Church is not a building, it is the people who belong to it. We are blessed to have a growing diversity of people from all walks of life. We are growing together and reaching out to others who need the love and life Jesus Christ offers.

Our church was organized in 1967, Pastor Robert D. Eggebeen served Crete Church from 1965 to 1968, and was succeeded by Pastor Ronald L. Sikkema who served from 1969 to 1972. Pastor Walter H. Pickup served from 1974 to 1984, and Pastor Mark Prestriedge led us from 1985 to 2009. Our most recent pastor, David Smith led our congregation from 2010 until June of 2017. Pastor Smith passed in July 2017.

CHURCH BUILDING AND PROPERTY INFORMATION

Crete Church owns the property located at 24755 S. Country Lane, Crete, Illinois, with no outstanding debt. The property consists of approximately 12 acres improved with a one level building that was originally completed in 1994, and a classroom addition completed in 2003. The building is 33,500 square feet. Additionally we have an approximate 1500 square foot woodworking shop and garage. A pavilion is currently being built for joint use by our church and the Crete Bulldogs. The buildings and paved parking area sit on approximately 6 acres.

The air conditioned church building will comfortably seat about 400 on the main floor, with additional seating for 80 in the balcony. There is a Family Life Center immediately adjacent to the sanctuary/narthex, which creates an easy flow for the congregation to gather after worship service. The FLC is equipped with a full kitchen and a portable sound system. The floor is carpeted with court lines for basketball and volleyball.

The building also has six private offices for staff, a library, two nurseries, prayer room, 16 classrooms, a youth room with small kitchen, projection and sound system, a gathering room (called Fireside room) which is also equipped with a small kitchen and sound system.

CURRENT STAFF

Youth Director	Kelsey Gorter	Full time - Paid
Music Director	Mark Evans	Part time - Volunteer
Children Ministry Leader	Julie Drew	Part time - Paid
Administrative Assistant	Ruth VanBeek	Part time - Paid
Communications Director	Debbie Liccar	Part time - Volunteer

CONGREGATION INFORMATION

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2017</u>
Active Confessing Members	213	169
Inactive Confessing Members	26	14
Active Non Members		24
Average Attending Worship on Sunday	260	145



WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sunday Morning Worship - 9:30 to approximately 10:45 AM, with fellowship time immediately following in the Family Life Center. 11:00 Sunday School for all ages.

Wednesday Night Prayer - 7:00 PM on the second and fourth Wednesdays. This is a time where we pray for the church family and local community.

CHURCH MINISTRIES AND OUTREACH

• SHINING STARS CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES and ORGANIZATIONS •

Shining Stars Ministries touches the lives of children between the ages of newborn - 5th grade. Our goal is to encourage children in their journey discovering who Jesus Christ is and how much He loves them.

We instruct the children in Biblical teaching through study, activities, service and relationships.

Ministries of Shining Stars

Infant and Toddler Nursery - Our goal is to provide quality childcare for the children in our church.

Preschool - Fifth Grade Sunday School - Our goal is to help the preschoolers through fifth grade discover who Jesus is through Bible stories, Bible memory work, and activities.

W.O.W. (Way Out Worship) Children's Church - W.O.W. gathers every Sunday morning, except the first Sunday of the month, to encourage the children, 5 years old through fourth grade, in God's word through song, story time, and meaningful activities.

Lil W.O.W. Children's Church - Lil' W.O.W. gathers every Sunday morning to lead 3-4 year olds in God's truths through song, story time and meaningful activities.

Vacation Bible School - VBS is an outreach ministry for our surrounding communities. Our goal is to bring the love of Jesus Christ to our children and their families.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

• CHILDREN'S ORGANIZATIONS •

GEMS Girls' Club - A mentoring ministry designed to bring girls, 2nd through 12th grade, into a living relationship with Jesus Christ, through relationships, praise, devotions and badge work. This girls club is open to the community and meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month, September through May.

Cadets Boys' Club - A ministry to bring boys, 2nd through 12th grade, into a living relationship with Jesus Christ. Cadets are designed for Christian men who are trained in the word, to help boys grow spiritually in their devotional, mental, physical and social life. Cadets meet the first and third Wednesdays of the month, September through May.

• JR. AND SR. HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRIES •

Jr. High Ministries (6th - 8th grade) - Jr. High ministry consists of Sunday Morning Sunday School and bi-monthly Wednesday evening meetings/activities. Our youth group meetings consist of Bible study, social activities, retreats, and one on one mentoring. We are committed to loving our youth and caring for their spiritual and physical well-being.

Sr. High Ministries (9th - 12th grade) - Sr. High ministry consists of Sunday morning High School Catechism Class and Sunday evening meetings/activities. Our youth group meetings consist of Bible Study, socials activities, service projects, one on one mentoring and leadership training. We are committed to loving our youth and caring for their spiritual and physical well-being.

SPAM (Sr. High Performing Arts Ministry) - SPAM meets on Sunday mornings with high school and adults working together in creating skits that brings Biblical truths and stories to life.



• **ADULT MINISTRIES and ORGANIZATIONS** •

Crete Church adult discipleship ministries strives to help our congregants and community grow in relationship to Jesus Christ.

<u>Adult Group</u>	Average Attendance
• Life Groups (Small group Bible Study Ministry)	30 - 35
• Adult Sunday Bible Study (Men and Women Study on Sunday mornings)	10 - 20
• Women's Bible Study (Sunday Morning Women's Study)	10 - 20
• Men's Saturday Morning Study (Men meet once a month for Bible Study)	10 - 15
• Young Families Small Group (Meets bi-monthly for fellowship and study)	20 - 25
• Mom-to-Mom (Young mothers meet bi-monthly, outreach)	10 - 15
• Book Club (Women meet once a month, outreach)	5 - 8
• Card Making Ministry (Women meet once a month to make cards)	5 - 8
• Card Writing Ministry (Women writing to the those with needs and concerns)	4
• The Grill (connecting with Bulldogs, serves approx 50 (Grilling food for the families of the Bulldogs, outreach)	5-15 workers
• Wednesday Night Diner (serves approx 130) (Provides meals for community on GEMS/Cadet nights)	4-5 workers
• Crete Food Pantry (Bi yearly ministry) (works with other churches to provide food assistance)	4 workers

COOPERATIVE OUTREACH MINISTRIES

• THE EDGE COFFEE HOUSE MINISTRY •

In 2009 God placed on our hearts the idea of a Community Coffee House and we asked the other churches in the community to come on board with the idea. The United Methodist Church joined us with the vision of the Coffee House, along with representatives from the Lutheran Church as workers. The current board is made up of representatives for the Coffee House Ministry from Crete Church, United Methodist Church, Local Business and School Board. The Edge Community Coffee House opened on August 29th 2009. The ministry continues to reach many in our community with the Love of Jesus Christ.

With the development of the coffee house, doors were opened for us to come along side the community for Crete Country Christmas with two of our members leading the committee. Our church allows the use of our facility to house the Kris Kringle Market, providing a food venue to the vendors and Christmas shoppers. We also provide a trolley service for the event to help families travel free from the various locations in the community.

• FAITH AND ACTION •

Our church members provide assistance to Faith and Action, a local ministry that supplies needs to under resourced families, children, and churches on the south side of Chicago and surrounding areas. We help by hosting a “Summerfest” event for the families and community, plus volunteer in various programs such as gardening, fishing and pumpkin patch days. From homework help, to music lessons, to coat giveaways, our members are working to assist “Faith and Action”.

• CHRIST CARES •

Crete Church walks alongside Christ Cares Ministries from Chicago Heights. Once a month we host 10-20 homeless people that are part of Christ Cares ministries. We provide a day of “Sabbath Rest” by opening our doors early on the first Tuesday of the month, providing cots to rest on, a washer and dryer to allow the guests to wash their clothes, and Bible study for spiritual development. A group luncheon allows our staff and other members of our church to visit and build relationships with our guests for the day. This ministry operates October - April.

We also work alongside Christ Cares Ministries, by collecting toys at Christmas time for children in our area. Not only do we collect the toys, our whole congregation comes together the Sunday before Christmas to wrap and organize the toys that are collected from various other churches. Our youth and adults participate in this activity to help Christ Cares bring the message of Christmas to many homes and shelters.

CRETE CHURCH PARTNERING WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES

• WEIGHT WATCHERS •

Crete Church works with Weight Watchers to provide a friendly meeting place for those in our community who are seeking to live a healthier life style.

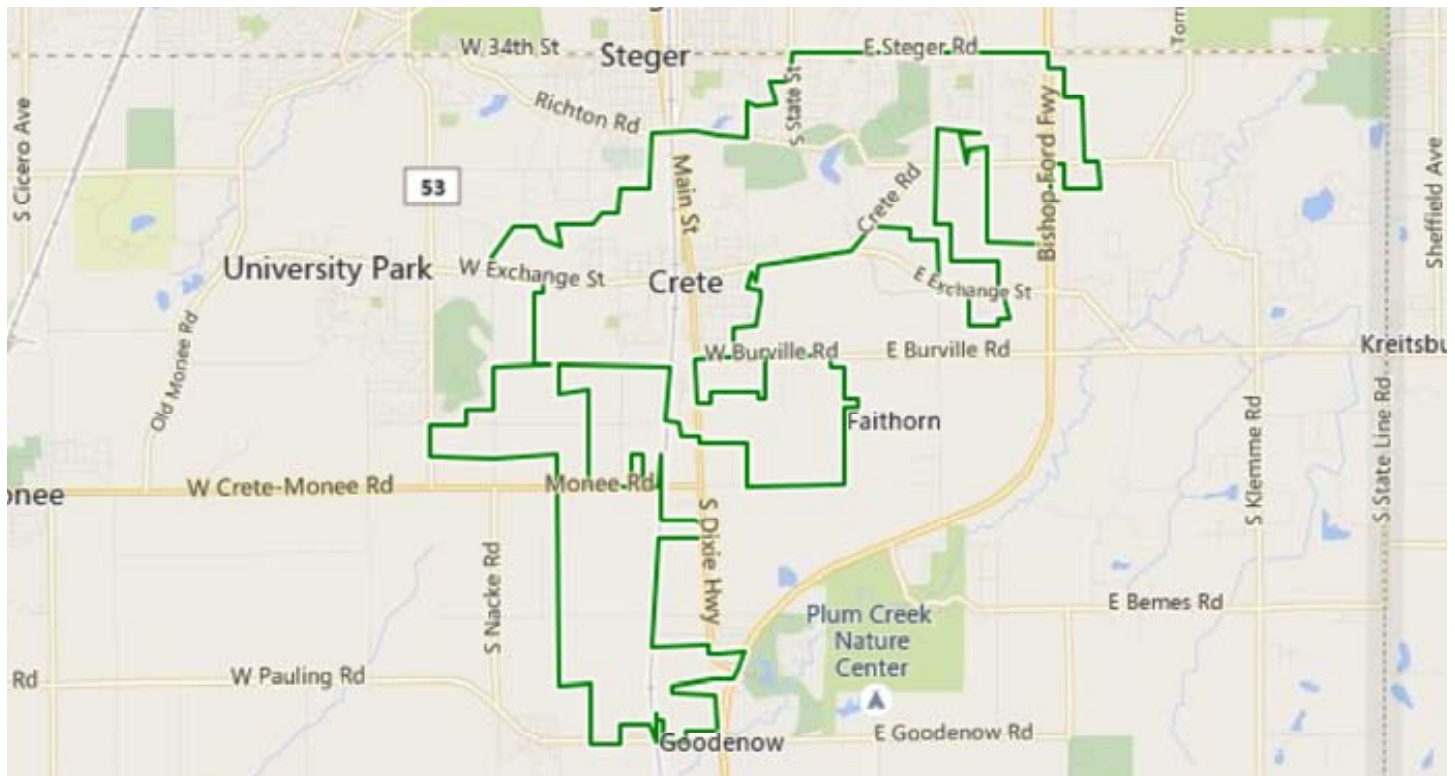
• HOLLAND COMPANY •

Crete Church partners with Holland Company to provide a learning environment for their employees during their yearly training.

CRETE, ILLINOIS AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

We are a friendly church and considered by the community as a church who cares. We are home to our local youth football league, the Crete Bulldogs. We are actively involved in the Edge Coffee House that reaches out to the community in music, art and friendships. We also help with the local food pantry and are involved in Crete Country Christmas.

Crete Church is located in the city of Crete, IL, with Beecher to our south, Steger to the north and Dyer/St. John to our east.



Crete- (estimated pop.) 8500 people
Beecher-(estimated pop.) 4500 people
Steger-(estimated pop.) 9500 people
Dyer/St. John - (estimated pop.) 32,000 people

Crete is a community unique to the Chicago metropolitan area. Located just 30 miles south of the Loop in Will County, it has maintained its small town charm. Crete has beautiful parks, lush natural preserved areas, and more than six golf courses within a short drive. It continues to attract new commercial projects.

Beecher takes great pride in the community. It has retained a quaint, rural atmosphere while being less than an hour from downtown Chicago. Its tree-lined streets, new subdivisions and commercial developments combine to create a truly picturesque place to live and work.

Steger is an industrial community located on the historical Dixie Highway, host to “Driving the Dixie”. Steger is where “progress is a fact, not a promise.”

Dyer/St. John located 24 miles southeast of Chicago, is a well planned community, filled with quiet neighborhoods and quality schools. It has over 20 parks and an active park program for the residents.

OTHER LOCAL DENOMINATIONS OR RELIGIONS

Many different denominations and religions are present within 30 minutes of our church, including Catholic, Lutheran, Protestant Reformed, United Reformed, Presbyterian, Reformed Church of America, Christian Reformed Church, Methodist, Bible Church, Baptist, Assembly of God, United Church of Christ, Episcopal, Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh Day Adventist, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Evangelical Free, Apostolic, Christian Scientist, and Unitarian.

• 23 LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS •

A brief overview of each local school, location and size is provided below with a link to each school's website following the respective summary.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS CRETE DISTRICT OVERVIEW:

The Crete-Monee School District 201-U is a Pre-K through 12 grade school district and serves 4,797 students. The district has four K through 5 elementary schools, a K through 8 magnet school, a sixth grade center, one seventh and eighth grade middle school and one four-year high school. www.cm201u.org/

SCHOOLS OF BEECHER:

Beecher school district provides education for over 1,000 students K through 12 . <http://www.beecher.will.k12.il.us/>

SCHOOLS OF STEGER:

Steger is located in both southern Cook County and northern Will County, Illinois. Steger School District 194 currently serves 1,700 students throughout Steger, South Chicago Heights, Park Forest, Sauk Village, and Crete. www.sd194.org/

LAKE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL:

Serving the communities of Dyer, St John and Schererville, Indiana in neighboring Northwest Indiana, Lake Central has an enrollment of approximately 3,300 students. www.lakecentral.lcsc.us/

• PRIVATE SCHOOLS •

DEER CREEK CHRISTIAN SCHOOL A local non-denominational Christian School, located in Chicago Heights, serving the South Suburbs with Pre-K through 8 education with a current enrollment of about 132 students. www.dccsonline.org

LANSING CHRISTIAN SCHOOL Lansing Christian has served the greater Lansing community since 1907 by offering an educational program for students in grades Pre-K through 8. www.lansingchristian.org

ILLIANA CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL Illiana Christian High School is a co-educational, private, Christian high school located in Lansing, Illinois. It is operated by a community of Reformed Christians for the benefit of their children and the children of other Evangelical Christians. Current enrollment is about 516 students. www.illianachristian.org

MARIAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL Marian Catholic High School is a Catholic, co-educational, college preparatory high school within the Dominican tradition of study, prayer, community, and preaching. The student body of Marian Catholic is over 1,500. www.marianchs.com

• **PRIVATE SCHOOLS continued** •

MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC ACADEMY Mother Teresa has main campus in Park Forest and a satellite facility in Crete, Illinois. Mother Teresa serves those communities with primary Catholic K through 8 education. <http://www.mtcacademy.org/>

ILLINOIS LUTHERAN SCHOOLS Located in Crete, Illinois, the Illinois Lutheran Schools offer Pre-K through 12 education and is affiliated with the Lutheran Church. Enrollment in the Illinois Lutheran Schools is about 330. www.ilhs.org

CROWN POINT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL Crown Point Christian School is an association of Evangelical Christians interested in providing Christ-centered education for their children. The school offers Pre-K through 8 classes, with over 700 students enrolled and serves Crown Point, Indiana and the surrounding areas. www.crownpointchristian.org/

HERITAGE PROTESTANT REFORMED SCHOOLS The Protestant Reformed Christian School and Heritage Christian High School are private (parental), non-profit, educational institutions offering K through 12 education opportunities. Our corporate identity is the Association for Protestant Reformed Education, formed and operated by parents and supporters of the school, and governed by a stated constitution and by-laws. <http://www.heritagechs.org/>