B-Dawg's Buzz by Brenda Post, Secretary

I was a child of the 1980's. Big hair teased to the max, perms, high top tennis shoes and what some considered some of the worst music in history. I know that there are some of reading this right now that are shaking their head up and down and saying to themselves, "yep me too!" I loved the music from the 80's. There was a lot of drum tracks and synthesizers in the production. Some would say that the music wasn't really music because there wasn't a lot of "real" instruments involved. in the production of the songs. That didn't bother me too much. I can still sing along to songs that come on the radio today, some 30 years later.

But, this started me thinking. Why is it that I can sing along to songs that I learned over 30 years ago and yet struggle to quote scripture verbatim? Why do I not know where some of my favorite scriptures are located in the Bible? Why do I feel like I know "bad" music from the 1980's more so than God's Holy Word? I think it can be summed up in one word. Priorities.

The key to living the abundant life God has for us is learning to make Him our first priority. So, why do many people seek the "things" first? We are a culture that is always being told that the key to being happy is looking a certain way, or being a certain thing to be happy. Our kids have more pressure on them to "fit in" at school and from their peers. If they don't look a certain way or act a certain way, you can bet they will be getting bullied.

Many people's top priorities seem to be jobs, houses, cars or other material things. To seek means "to crave, pursue, to make sacrifices to get, to go after with all of your strength and all of your heart." It is a mistake to crave and pursue possessions, believing they will give us the lasting peace, joy and contentment that only come from God's presence in our lives.

I am a shallow Christian at times. I want the "fruit" of God's Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience – and all operating in my life but I am not always seeking that, so my "roots" aren't very deep at all. I have it backwards...as many of us do at times. We want the money, the house, the platform or whatever our thing is. So we pursue that rather than the true treasure of God's presence.

Just like a tree needs roots to go down deep and spread wide in the soil for it to grow strong, healthy branches that can withstand the elements, Christians need to develop deep spiritual roots in Christ. Our lives need to be deeply rooted and grounded in the Word of God and in His love – not our "stuff." We soon find that out when the storms of life come, and our "things" don't make us so happy anymore. That's because those things can't give us what we truly need. And it doesn't matter how much stuff you have if you're miserable.

Don't get me wrong; I'm not saying it's bad to want nice belongings or to desire a good life. But we need to examine our priorities when it comes to those things. We need to learn to seek God's face and not His hand. If we will seek His face, His hand will always be open to us.

It seems that so much of the time, we get it the other way around, going after possessions as if we'll never get what we want if we don't. But I encourage you to think about what it will be like at the end of your life. I know that's not a pleasant thought, but do you really think you'll be concerned about your stuff? Or do you think you'll want family near?

We must establish our lives in Christ. If we are to be truly happy – with or without all the stuff—we must learn to trust our lives to God. If we will pursue His kingdom and His righteousness, we will see what it means to be content in life. As the apostle Paul said, "...I have learned in whatsoever state I am, to be content" (Philippians 4:11).

The key is to seek the Kingdom first. Pursue God; seek His face and not His hand. Go after a relationship with Him as if it is everything! You will find if you seek His face, His hand will always be open to you. Learn to be content in your relationship with God; He knows everything you need.

The Newsletter

October 2015

First Reformed Church

Ryan's RamblingsDirector of Youth Ministry

Glorify God in all we do, Grow with Him daily and Go with Him to share His love.

Glorify, Grow, Gol

I like being a little weird; I like being different. But it wasn't always that way. Growing up, I never liked standing out. I wanted to be like everybody else; I wanted to be normal.

I carried that thought process into my youth group when I was in high school. I needed the Bible and the translation that all of the other kids had. I had to have a WWJD bracelet like all of the other kids had. I told myself that I had to be like the other Christian students at my church and school.

But it turns out that we aren't called to be like other Christians, we are called to be like Christ.

And to become more like Christ, you'll have to undergo some of the same experiences that Jesus went through—like being misunderstood by your family, ridiculed by church members, rejected by the world, and disappointed by the people who say they love you. The Bible says we've been called to 'share in his sufferings...that we may also share in his glory' (Romans 8:17 NLT). So how do we do this?

In three ways:

- **1. Stay focused on God's plan, not your pain.** 'Let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith' (Hebrews 12:1-2 NLT). Corrie Ten Boom, a Christian who helped Jews escape the Nazi Holocaust and was subsequently imprisoned, said, 'If you look within, you'll feel depressed, if you look out, you'll be distressed, but if you look to Christ, you'll be at rest.'
- **2. Don't give in to short-term thinking.** Look at Jesus, 'Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross' (Hebrews 12:2 NLT). Keep your eye on the finish line. You don't get the trophy until the race is over, so make up your mind to 'stay the course' and finish strong.
- **3. Start praying the right way.** When you understand that God's objective is to make you more like Christ, you'll start praying fewer 'comfort me' prayers and more 'conform me' ones. Instead of asking, 'Why me, Lord?' you'll ask, 'What do You want me to learn, Lord?' Let the process go on. James writes, 'So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.' (James 1:4 NLT). That's how you become more Christ-like.

Bible Wordsearch Sermons of Jesus 2 Wordsearch 241 Matt.5:43-6:4 ANNOUNCE DOING DONE **BEFORE ENEMY BROTHERS EVEN** CAREFUL EVIL CAUSES GOOD **FATHER HEAVEN GIVING** GREET HONORED **NEIGHBOR** HAND **PAGANS** HATE **HEARD** PERFECT KNOW RECEIVED LOVE REWARD RIGHTEOUS NEEDY PRAY SECRET RISE STREETS TRUMPETS SENDS SONS TRUTH PERSECUTE COLLECTORS After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right MORE PUZZLES AT: http://biblewordgames.com ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

COPYRIGHT 2015

Full Consistory Meeting 8:00pm

13 A Quorum

- 165. Ministry Team Reports were given.
- 166. Elder/Deacon calls were discussed.
- 167. The 2016 budget was presented for discussion.
- 168. MMSC to approve the proposed budget with the changes made.
- 169. A church property discussion was tabled for two weeks.
- 170. MMSC to re-open discussion on what we wanted to do with our Youth Room.
- 171. MMSC to table what we wanted to do with our Youth Room for two weeks.
- 172. The Treasurer's report was given.
- 173. Jared Brouwer shared the Deacon's Business.
- 174. Elder's minutes were read for information.
- 175. MMSC to approve the minutes as read.
- 176. MMSC to adjourn following prayer by Pastor Luke.

The first cordless phone was created by God. He named it prayer. It never loses its signal and you never have to recharge it. Use it ANYWHERE!! -Godfruits.com

CONSISTORY MINUTES September 21, 2015 6:30 PM

OUR MISSION:

God's Grace compels us to lovingly GLORIFY God in all we do GROW with Him daily and GO with Him to share His love

- 151. Pastor Luke opened the meeting by reading from 1 Timothy 3 and opened with prayer. We then looked at chapter 13 of the book "The Measure of a Man". We discussed the questions in that chapter that dealt with treating others fairly with gentleness, compassion, mercy and kind hearts.
- 152. The Elders and Deacons then met in separate meetings

Elder's Meeting 7:00pm

5 A Quorum

- 153. MMSC to approve the membership transfer in of Brent and Chelsey Town and their children: Hudson, Hadley and Cason from the Trinity Reformed Church in Orange City, IA.
- 154. On October 4 the Elders and Pastor will meet with six individuals to make profession of faith, who are currently in the pre confession class.
- 155. Elders shared on calls made this month.
- 156. The constitutional question was asked of the Elders: are there any members who need spiritual care this month.
- 157. MMSC to allow Kelsey Martinez permission to use the church for a wedding to be held on Dec. 19, 2015. The reception is to be held here as well.
- 158. MMSC to allow Keisha Harberts the use of the church for a wedding on Sept. 24, 2016.
- 159. MMSC to allow Clint Klaassen and JoAnn Schnoer the use of the church for a wedding on Oct. 8, 2016.
- 160. MMSC to allow Cal Runia and Cathy Deibert the use of the church for a wedding on Oct. 31, 2015.
- 161. Letters to be sent to inactive members was read and discussed.
- 162. Letters to be sent to members to be dropped from our membership roll was read and discussed.
- 163. MMSC to approve the minutes as read.
- 164. MMSC to adjourn following prayer by Ryan Arentsen.

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you so much for all the things you do for us; your prayers, gifts, donations, visits or a word of comfort or of wisdom means a lot to us.

We do not know what this year 2015 holds for us but we know that the one who holds tomorrow holds our hands. This is why it was so appropriate as their chaplain from 4th grade to lead the singing at their 6th grade promotion of the Moravian School. They are stretching their arm while singing these faithful words, "God stretches His arm and defends us in the battle against the evil one."

Traveling up river to offer health care is so much of a blessing for us. Sometimes we have also been able to do minor surgery. During our trip in November, Mrs. Petronila came to our clinic and was complaining about a lump on her back and it is causing her a lot of pain. Because of this our doctor decided to remove the lump (lipoma). It was so nice to hear her saying, "I know I can sleep better, I do not have pain, thank God that I am free from that pain, now I am able to do my work better."

The children at the feeding program are getting along well. At the present moment we have over 100 children in this program, it is a joy to see them coming from school and stopping in for their meal before they go home. Many of these kids wouldn't be able to continue attending school without your help.

We have hosted many teams but this is the first time that a family came and spent a month with us. It was November of last year, that the DeKruyter family from Holland, MI came. They came and blessed the kitchen with plates, prepared and served meals, and gave Bible lessons to the children. They also helped in the pastors and midwives training with a Biblical word of encouragement.

After Christmas we were also visited for the first time by a group of nine people from American Reformed Church in Orange City, IA. They had a lot of fun teaching Bible lessons and playing with the children. It was an awesome Christmas week for us at the comedor.

At the present moment we have nine girls and five boys at the Tabitha's Homes and every body is in school. Some of our volunteers are also helping in encouraging the kids by sending letters to them. "Thank you for taking time to send these encouraging notes to the boys and girls at Tabitha's Home." Please pray for them as they attend school, that they may be filled with wisdom, protection and obedience.

Prayer requests:

- 1. Pray for Ebi and Darriel to stop running away from school.
- 2. Pray for the various programs, the Tabitha girls and boys and comedor children.

Bernardeth and Adrian's ministry

Bernardeth Kelly Bent and Adrian Bobb, who is ordained, work with the Institute of Social Development of the Moravian Church (IDSIM) training health workers, pastors, and other people from villages and neighborhoods. They work with churches to establish foster homes, feeding programs, and scholarships for children from poor neighborhoods in Bluefields, and they provide pastoral and health care to people in remote villages along the Rio Grande de Matagalpa.

Greeters for October, 9 am

- Oct. 4 West: Harvey and Marcia Van Ruler Middle: Joel and Kathy Verdoorn East: Larry and Alfreda Verdoorn
- 11 West: John and Faye Vos Middle: Gary and Jessa Wolter East: Lawrence and Ruth Ann Wiersma
- West: Kody and Rachel Wills/family
 Middle: Brent and Brenda Wassman/family
 East: Chris and Tiffany Wynia/family
- West: Charlie and Brenda Ackerman/family Middle: Dean and Michelle Ackerman/family East: Brian and Chelsey Alexander/family



Open Door Greeters for October, 11 am

Oct.

- West: Mike and Laurie Kraayenbrink Middle: Dave and Sandy Lamfers East: Frank and Darcy Martinez
- 11 West: Larry and Rhonda Riebeling Middle: Marlin and Kathy Runia West: Brian and Heidi Sayler
- 18 West: Duane and Pam Vande Hoef Middle: Jayson and Cathy Vande Hoef East: John and Lois Van Diepen
- 25 West: Larry and Melissa De Boer Middle: Joe and Nisa de Boom East: G. Doorenbos and L. Hulstein



News from the Library



Recently, someone donated a large number of pocket paperback books. They are *Love Inspired Inspirational Romance and Suspense* books. You may think they are not for the church library but they all have a Christian theme. If you would be interested in reading some of them, you will find the books in

the library on a special shelf standing on the north wall next to the other fiction books. Besides being Christian books they are <u>"larger print" books</u>. We have processed them just a bit differently from the others. You will find the card clipped in the book, just sign your name and put it in the yellow card box like you would normally check out a book.

Now we need to ask for your help—someone has taken two books from the library written by Dani Pettrey. We cannot find the cards in the check-out box so obviously the books were not properly checked out. If you have the books SILENCED and SABOTAGED lying somewhere in your home, please bring them back to church. The two books are part of a series *Alaskan Courage* and someone else is eagerly waiting to finish reading the series.

Just a reminder to ALWAYS, ALWAYS take the card out of the book, put YOUR NAME on it plus the date due (two weeks from the day), and deposit the card in the front of the yellow box. Thank you for following the guidelines.

Alfreda Verdoorn Jeannette Juffer

The next month will very busy at church.

- On October 4th we will be voting for the office of Elder. It is also Communion Sunday.
- Also on October 4th, look for the proposed 2016 budget from the Consistory. Reminder: The annual meeting of the church shall be held the first Sunday in November, after having been announced at the regular worship services on two successive Sundays immediately preceding the meeting. All Communicant members are allowed to vote regardless of age. (No age restriction.) Only such business as has previously been presented to and discussed by the Consistory shall be placed on the agenda of the Congregational Meeting (matters of business from the membership, for the Congregational Meeting, must be in the hands of the Consistory for their meetings prior to the Congregational Meeting in order to be included on the agenda).
- Because of the change in the By-laws, in February 2015, the Pastor's Salary will no longer be voted on at the Congregational Meeting. The Consistory approves all areas of the budget at the October Consistory Meeting. (Oct. 19). Any concerns need to brought to a Consistory member by this date.
- On October 11th, sample ballots will be inserted into the bulletin to start the congregation praying for who they will nominate for the office of Deacon.
- On October 18th we will be voting for the office of Deacon.
- Those have been nominated to the offices of Elder or Deacon will be published in the October 25thh bulletin.
- Sunday, November 8th is the Congregational Meeting and Spaghetti Lunch.

One of the most important responsibilities in the Christian life is to care about others, smile at them, and be a friend to the friendless. ~James Dobson

Nursery for October, 9:00 am

- 04 Ashley Heronimus and Diane Langstraat
- 11 Kim and Alex Mc Dougall
- 18 Ruth Ann Wiersma and Jessa Wolter
- 25 Lesa Stofferan and Jodene Kruse

Nursery for October, 11:00

- Missy Julius and Kim Van Der Sloot
- 11 Cathy and Victoria Vande Hoef
- 18 Lynn and Alex Mulder
- 25 Amy and Mariah Elser



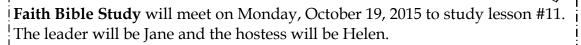
Christianity is a lifestyle. And being a Christian is more than a label.

Joyce Meyer

Coffee With the Pastor

This month, our coffee time with the pastor will be <u>October 7th at 9 am</u> Hope to see YOU there!

Women's Bible Studies



Patience Bible Study will meet Monday, October 19 at 4 pm. Leader is Lois and hostess is Mary.

After Church Greeters for October

Oct 4	SE Harvey Van Ruler						
	C Pastor Luke						
	SW Lawrence Wiersma						
	BE John Bartels						
	BW Larry Buysman						
11	SE Marcus De Boer						
	C Ron Dykstra						
	SW Harold Ernst						
	BE Pastor Luke						

18 SE Stan Gaalswyk C Pastor Luke SW Lennis Harberts BE Ed Harskamp BW Bill Hartzell

25 SE Dale Honken C Corky Koerselman SW Dr. Greg Kosters BE Arnie Langstraat BW Pastor Luke

Music for October

BW Henry Fisher

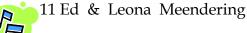
04	Senior Choir					
11	Nothing					

18 Senior Choir

25 Grace Place

Coffee Servers for October

04 Ken & Wilma Loerts



18 Larry & Rhonda Riebeling

25 Marvin & Janice Runia



Willing Hands Group

Willing Hands Group #4 will be responsible for services during the month of October. Co-chairpersons are Karen and Dale Honken, Kim and John Mc Dougall and Marcia and Dick Oldenkamp.



Sportsmen's Devotional

Bible Study Verses:

Colossians 3:12-14

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (NIV)

Thoughts:

I recall a fascinating experience while bow hunting in Minnesota. I was in my deer stand when I heard quite a commotion in the woods. The leaves were rustling, twigs snapping, accompanied by clashing sounds. I came down from my stand and headed toward the commotion. Two big Whitetail bucks, 14 and 10 pointers, had locked horns and were struggling to get apart. I tried to get close enough to get a shot, but they pulled apart and took off in the woods.

Even more fascinating are the Bighorn Sheep rams that have head-to-head combat. They rear back on their hind legs, then drop to all fours and charge each other at speeds greater than 20 mph. Fortunately, they have double-layered skulls shored with struts of bone for battle protection. They also have a massive tendon linking the skull and spine to help the head pivot and recoil from the blows.

These above mentioned displays of aggression are typical in the animal kingdom to prove dominance hierarchy.

(Tom L)

Action Point:

God made us in His image and in His likeness. We don't have to fight for a position in a hierarchy of creation. We have Christ as our role model of love.

To be controlling, abusive and dominant in a marriage, or in any other relationship, is not what God had in mind for us. "Clothe yourselves" with Christ-like attributes.

Sportsmen's Tip of the Day:

Come to the Wind River Range of Wyoming and see the largest herd of Bighorn Sheep in North America.



October Birthday's

- Russell Gaalswyk Katie Kruger
- Leona Meendering Joanne Klaassen Peg Van Kley
- 3. Barb Berkenpas
- 4. Eugene Groen
 Gretchen Bartelson
- Pam KrugerMike Anderson
- 6. Karen Doorenbos
- 7. Pat Muilenburg
 Marcus De Boer

- 8. Jane Buysman Harvey Van Ruler Alecia Martinez
- Marian Zevenbergen Renae Wolter Addison Mc Dyer
- 10. Ethel Jurgens Carol Iedema Ken Heronimus Gina Jacobsma
- 11. Erin Berkenpas Johnson Britta Harberts Marlin Runia Marissa Ackerman
- 12 Dr. Greg Kosters
- 13 Chelsey Harberts Lampen Jerry Bosma
- 14 Cliff Mehls
- 15 Nathan Kraayenbrink

- 16 Elijiah Sayler Levi Sayler
- 17 Marlys Brink
- 18 Jason Jacobsma
- 19 Elizabeth Haken
- 22 Peter Meyer Elizabeth Hibma
- 23 Halle Block
- 26 Anna Kosters
- 27 Ben Jacobsma Pauline Van Engen
- 29 Janice Runia LeRoy Stevenson Jodie Kruger
- 30 Duane Vande Hoef
- 31 Cole Dykstra

October Anniversaries

02 Cory & Amy Dykstra-16 years

05 Gary & Sandy De Vries—42 years

06 Jerry & Sylvia Bosma-54 years

10 Dale & Marilynn De Boer—59 years

11 Joe & Nisa de Boom—12 years

- 19 Don & Jennie Schram—36 years
- 20 Terry & Chrissy Ackerman- 8 years
- 20 Dwayne & Janice Heikes-36 years
- 20 Rod & Tami Vander Veen-25 years
- 20 Carl & Barb Berkenpas—47 years
- 23 Chad & Stacey Baker—11 years

October Faith In Action:

October Faith in Action is a winter clothing drive for the Center of Hope in Sioux Falls. Clean your closets and bring any winter coats, scarves, mittens, caps that are in good shape to bring to church. They will be put to good use.



Library Volunteers

Oct. 4-LaVonne Prins

Oct. 11-Janice Runia

Oct. 18-Jennie Schram

Oct. 25-Phyllis Vander Linden

Sunday School Nursery

04 - Ellen Schram and Tami Tracy

11 - Barb Van Diepen and Janelle Van Drunen

18 Peg Van Kley and Pam Vande Hoef

25 - Ruth Ann Wiersma and Tiffany Wynia

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



I REALLY LIKE YOUR BIBLE, DAD ... HOW DO YOU TURN IT ON?

October 2015

Property meets at 8:30 am 2nd Sunday
Christian Ed meets 5 pm 2nd Sunday
Outreach Ministry 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM

Worship Ministry meets at 6 pm 2nd Wednesday

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Pray for:
				Robert and Betty Kruger	Pearl Kruger	Matt Runia Harrison Feldkamp Peter Meyer Sarah Honken
4 Vote for office of Elder	5	68:30 am Quilters	77 am Prayer Time	8	9	10 Pray for:
9am Cornerstone 10 am Coffee/Prayer Fireside Room 11am Open Door 7-8:30 pm HS Bible Study	Tim and Jodie Kruger; Jared and Katie	11 am Staff Meeting Jodene Kruse	9-10 am Coffee w/the Pastor 6:15 Family Night Supper 6:30-7:45 pm Bible Cl. G 1-5 6:30-7:45 MS Remnant/ 8-9:30 HS Remnant 7 pm Senior Choir	Charles and Brenda Kuhl; Maranda	Dave and Sandy Lamfers	Cody Hurlburt Ellie Klaassen Jena Van Marel Kayla Ackerman
11 9am Cornerstone	12	138:30 am Quilters	147 am Prayer Time	15	16	17Pray for:
10am Coffee/Prayer FSRoom 10-11 am Member Class 11am Open Door 7-8:30 pm HS Bible Study	Ryan Arentsen, DYM	11 am Staff Meeting Kyle and Carri Lamfers	6 pm Outreach Meeting 6:30-7:45 pm Bible Cl. G 1-5 6:30-7:45 MS Remnant/ 8-9:30 HS Remnant 7 pm Senior Choir	Arnie and Diane Langstraat	Mark & Melissa Langstraat; Emma, Addysen, Taylor	Hannah Klaassen Kellyn Kruger Alecia Martinez Clara Meyer
18Vote for office of Deacon	19 9 am Faith Bible St.	208:30 am Quilters	217 am Prayer Time	22	23	24 Pray for:
9 am Cornerstone 10am Coffee/Prayer FSRoom 10-11 am Member Class 11am Open Door 7-8:30 pm HS Bible Study	4 pm Patience Bible St.6:30 pm Consistory Pray for Our Consistory	11 am Staff Meeting Gary and Wilma Leusink; Andrea	6:30-7:45 pm Bible Cl. G 1-5 6:30-7:45 MS Remnant/ 8-9:30 HS Remnant 7 pm Senior Choir Pray for our Children	Jeremy and Jill Leusink; Noah and Natalie	Roger Lindberg	Jessica Mehls Shannon Michelson Ethan Post Ignacio Romero
25 Communion Prep.	26 Meals on Wheels This	278:30 am Quilters	287 am Prayer Time	29	30	31 Wedding of Cal Runia
_	week: Oct. 26-30	11 am Staff Meeting	6:30-7:45 pm Bible Cl. G 1-5 6:30-7:45 MS Remnant/ 8-9:30 HS Remnant 7 pm Senior Choir	Brad and Sarah Loerts;	Brian and Megan Loerts;	and Cathy Diebert Pray for Cal and Cathy
11am Open Door 7-8:30 pm HS Bible Study	Pastor Luke and Chris	Cindy Larsen		Brad and Sarah Loerts; Parker, Blake and Brynna	Brian and Megan Loerts; Brysen and Jaxton	