

HAPPY NEW YEAR

January 2018  
First Reformed Church

# The Newsletter

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

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



On Dec. 1, a group from First Reformed Church joined many other volunteers in Minneapolis to prepare Operation Christmas Child Shoebox gifts to go overseas. It was predicted that over 500,000 shoeboxes would be inspected and prayed over at this location from November 21 to December 16. To accomplish this task it takes faith and a well organized process. On the day we served, boxes were being prepared for shipment to Namibia, a country in southwest Africa.



prepared for shipment to Namibia, a country in southwest Africa.



the power of  
a simple gift

### January at a Glance

- 1: Happy New Year!!
- 3: 9:00 Coffee With the Pastor
  - No Wed. Night Classes
- 7: 8:30 am Brunch Fundraiser for 2018 Romania Trips
  - 10:00 am Combined Service; Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons
- 10: 9:00 am: Mothers Together
  - 2:00 pm: FRC is in charge of Nursing Home Services
- 15: 9:00 am: Faith Bible Study
  - 4:00 pm: Patience Bible Study
- 24: 9:00 am: Mothers Together
- 27: Discipleship Team Meeting

#### \*Sunday Mornings:

- 9:00 Cornerstone Service
- 10:10 Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship
- 11:00 Open Door Service

#### \*Monday Evenings:

- 7:00 Women's Bible Study

#### \*Tuesday mornings:

- 8:30 Chickadee Quilters

#### \*Wednesday Evening Bible Classes and Youth Groups:

- 6:30-7:30 pm Bible Classes G.1-5
- 6:30-7:15 pm MS Remnant
- 7:15-8:30 pm HS Remnant

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sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com



View our Website at: [sibleyfrc.org](http://sibleyfrc.org)

## Words from Pastor Luke

A New Year! This month we put the past year behind us. Many different things happened, many changes took place in each of our lives. As we look forward to 2018 we have no idea what the year will bring. We can plan, dream and hope but in the end, all we know is it is God who holds our future in His hands. So, as we go into the new year we can be reminded that God is faithful and that He loves us dearly. No matter what happens, that is the one thing we can be assured of.

I have appreciated the relationships that have grown over the past year and am looking forward to growing even more relationships in the coming year. I have been privileged to serve you as pastor and am humbled to continue that journey into the new year.

I am looking forward to 2018. I have been excited about what is happening here at church, how people are growing in their faith and what God is going to do with us that will impact our lives and the world around us. What happens in your spiritual journey this year might be influenced by others but it is only you who can take the initiative to grow. Your spiritual journey and growth begins with you in 2018. I want to encourage you to open yourself up to a new level of walking with God and allowing the Holy Spirit to take you to greater heights of loving Jesus.

Several ways to help you grow your faith will begin to take place this month. We are going to start up several life groups each based on a different subject. I encourage you to get involved and be a part of one. We are also starting a grief support group for anyone who might be interested. One other program, we will be starting, is a mentoring/traders opportunity. This will involve at least two people willing to get together once a month and use some simple materials that will challenge you in your faith. This will be an opportunity to share stories, develop a friendship and talk about God. Our goal is to meet for the next 18 months. At the end of that 18 months you will have the opportunity to go on a trip to Israel. This will be open to others as well. We would love to see a grandparent with a grandchild, a parent and child, a friend with a friend, couples with couples, whatever you might think of.

We will also be offering several mission trip opportunities. If you can, find the time to go on one of these trips. It will be life-changing.

Finally, I just want to remind you of our 2018 budget. Last year, 2017, we made budget thanks to your generous giving. As we go into 2018 we need to be aware that we now have a full-time youth position from the beginning of the year. This is the biggest concern as last year we only paid out salary for 4 months. God has always been faithful and if we are faithful we will see great blessing in 2018. Step it up, get involved, trust God and see what great plans He has in store for you this new year!

Excited about our future!  
Pastor Luke



*It's Coffee Time...  
With the Pastor!!*

Come join Pastor Luke  
(and Brenda) for coffee  
at 9 am on January 3rd.

We would love to see you all!

**1 Thessalonians 5:11(NLT)**

***So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.***



We hope you are remembering your Secret Sister in your prayers as well as with acts of kindness. Secret Sisters is a great way to encourage someone and lift them up. Thanks for participating Sisters!!!



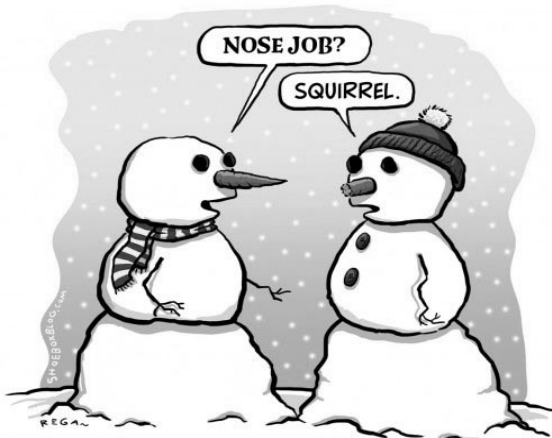
**Mothers Together**  
With God in the Middle

Do you ever wish you had a place where you could connect with others who have experienced the same parenting issues that you have? Want some time to relax, recharge and make new friends? Then Mothers Together is just the place for you.

Mothers Together meets at First Reformed Church of Sibley from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Mothers Together provides excellent child care while moms get the break they deserve. Mothers Together is a non-denominational group. We hope you will make plans to join us!!

**January Schedule:**

- January 10 at 9:00 am
- January 24 at 9:00 am



**Trivia Time!!!**

1. How many words are in the shortest verse in the Bible?
2. Who is the oldest man mentioned in the Bible?
3. Which apostle was a tentmaker?
4. What two books of the Bible are named after women?
5. How many days after birth was Jesus officially nameless?

# Cornerstone Service Greeters for January, 9 am



## 7: 10:00 Combined Worship Service

West-Harold and Shelia Van Der Sloot  
Middle-Mark and Kim Van Der Sloot/family  
East-Ger and Barb Van Diepen

## 21: West-Curt and Peg Van Kley

Middle-Justin and Angela Van Tilburg/family  
East-David Van Ruler/family

## 14: West-Keith and Janelle Van Drunen

Middle-Jim and Pauline Van Engen  
East-Joel and Teddy Van Gelder

## 28: West-Harvey and Marcia Van Ruler

Middle-Bryan Verdoorn and  
Roger Verdoorn  
East-Joel and Kathy Verdoorn



## 9:00 am Nursery Jan.

### 7: 10:00 Combined Service:

Jenna Ver Steeg and Chelsey Town

### 14: Chelsey Alexander and Sami Fox

### 21: Kayla Hoekstra and Chelsea Hulstein

### 28: Rachel Wills and Sandy Lamfers



## 11:00 am Nursery Jan.

### 7: No 11:00 Service

### 14: Angie Ackerman and Amber Mortenson

### 21: Missy Julius and Kim Van Der Sloot

### 28: Karen Honken and Amy Dykstra

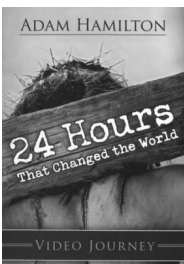
## Sunday School Nursery for January

### 7: No Sunday School (Combined Worship)

### 14: Luella Eggink

### 21: Lana Hibma

### 28: Jan Henrichs



**Men's Bible Study**, who meets every Sunday morning in the west end of the Fellowship Hall, will be starting a new book this month. The book is entitled 24 Hours That Changed the World, by Adam Hamilton. Here is a quick glimpse of the book:

"Beginning Thursday evening after sunset and lasting on through Friday, Jesus would eat the Last Supper with his disciples; pray in the garden of Gethsemane; be betrayed and deserted by his friends; be convicted of blasphemy by the religious authorities; be tried and sentenced for insurrection by Pontius Pilate; be tortured by Roman soldiers; and undergo crucifixion, death and burial." "The aim of this book is to help you better

understand the events that occurred during the last twenty-four hours of Jesus' life, see more clearly the theological significance of Christ's suffering and death, and reflect upon the meaning of these events for your life." Hope to see you there on Sunday!

## Coffee Servers for January



**7: 10:00 Service** Burdell and Jan Henrichs  
**14:** Deb and Greg Kusters

**21:** Roger and Carol Iedema  
**28:** Dan and Annette Janssen



## Children and Worship Leaders/Helpers for January

### Cornerstone Service 9:00am

**7: 10:00am Combined Service:**  
Leader: Annette Janssen  
Helper: Family of Logan Ver Steeg  
**14:** Leader: Deb Kusters  
Helper: Chris Schouten  
**21:** Leader: Deb Kusters  
Helper: Kathy Verdoorn  
**28:** Leader: Annette Janssen  
Helper: Family of Kalen Heronimus

### Open Door Service 11:00 am

**7: No 11:00 Service/Children & Worship**  
**14:** Leader: Deb Kusters  
Helper: Family of Jude and Lucy Anderson  
**21:** Leader: Deb Kusters  
Helper: Family of Lincoln and Addision McDyer  
**28:** Leader: Annette Janssen  
Helper: Family of Jaxton Loerts

## January Library Volunteers

**7:** Ruth Ann Wiersma  
**14:** Jane Buysman

**21:** Marilyn DeBoer  
**28:** Gert Gaalswyk



## Women's Bible Study



**Faith Bible Study**, who meets the third Monday of most months, will meet on **Monday, January 15** at 9:00 am in the Library. Leader: Alfreda Verdoorn; Hostess: Jane Buysman . Come join us as we discuss, "TLC for Trying Times," from the book 1&2 Peter And Jude. Anyone interested in joining the group is invited to join them in the Library.

**Patience Bible Study**, who also meets everything third Monday of most months, will meet on **Monday, January 15 at 4:00pm** in the church Library. We will be studying Lesson 7, "The Beautiful Judgement of God," from the book End Times by R. Paul Stevens. If you are interested in joining this study, please let Barb Van Diepen know and she will get you a book.

## After Church Greeters for January



**7: SE:** Duane Vande Hoef  
**C:** Pastor Luke  
**SW:** Josh Lucas  
**BE:** Paul Vander Linden  
**BW:** John Van Diepen

**21: SE:** Lawrence Wiersma  
**C:** John Bartels  
**SW:** Marcus De Boer  
**BE:** Pastor Luke  
**BW:** Josh Lucas

**14: SE:** Curt Van Kley  
**C:** Harvey Van Ruler  
**SW:** Pastor Luke  
**BE:** Josh Lucas  
**BW:** Larry Verdoorn

**28: SE:** Josh Lucas  
**C:** Heath De Jong  
**SW:** Ron Dykstra  
**BE:** Harold Ernst  
**BW:** Pastor Luke

## Elders in Prayer Room

**10:00 am**

**7:** Lawrence Wiersma  
**14:** Dale Honken  
**21:** Bill Hartzel  
**28:** Heath De Jong

**12:00 pm**

**7:** Lennis Harberts  
**14:** Duane Vande Hoef  
**21:** Dick Oldenkamp  
**28:** Marcus DeBoer



## January Faith In Action:

**Layettes  
for the  
Center of  
Hope**



DONATED ITEMS NEED TO BE NEW.



## January Willing Hands Group

Willing Hands Group  
**#1** will be responsible  
for services during the  
month of January.

Co-chairpersons are  
Marvella & Lennis Harberts and  
Barb & Ger Van Diepen.





Please remember the following: Weather Cancellations Procedure: **If there is NO school, or school is released early due to inclement weather, there will be NO WEDNESDAY Night activities. If the Cancellation is on Sunday, all services and activities will also be cancelled for the day.**

### **January Education Dates To Remember:**

- January 3 **No Wednesday Night Activities** due to Christmas Break
- January 7 **No Sunday School** due to 10:00 Combined Service



# College Addresses

Since we have had a few requests for our College Students' Addresses, we thought we would publish them. Being away at college can be a fun time. However, it can be a time filled with uncertainty and loneliness. If you get a chance, go ahead and drop a note in the mail to these students. You never know, it just may be exactly what they needed at that very moment. Parents, if you do not see your child's address listed here please let the church office know so it can also be published next month.

**Sarah Honken**  
1513 So. Grand Ave.  
Apt. 203  
Ames, IA 50010-6649

**Britta Harberts**  
Mathews Hall #0259  
Brookings, SD 57007

**Garrett Saylor**  
208 8th St SW  
Unit 846  
Orange City, IA 51041

**Andrea Meyer**  
1249 Eaton Lawther  
Ames IA 50012-1064

**Jena Van Marel**  
121 N 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
LaCrosse, WI 54601

**Kailey Bruxvoort**  
416 N Pine Street  
Burgess #214  
Vermillion, SD 57069

**MaKayla Tangeman**  
2800 Hudson Road  
HAG 155  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

**Josh Wagenaar**  
1230 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Brookings, SD 57006

**Colby Wagenaar**  
Binnewies 211-A2  
Brookings, SD 57007

**Peyton Creighton**  
2001 S. Summit Ave.  
Mailbox #4  
Sioux Falls, SD 57197

**Collin Van Diepen**  
Lake Area Sweets  
Apt. #16  
312 11<sup>th</sup> Street NE.  
Watertown, SD 57201

**Lars Ackerman**  
519 8th St.  
Sibley, IA 51249





# READ — THROUGH — THE BIBLE IN *365 Days* CHALLENGE

It's January! The beginning of the year is a great time to get back on track with reading your Bible. Over the next 12 months we will be printing a list of scriptures that will take you from beginning to end — Chronologically. Maybe reading the Bible this way is new for you, or maybe you have used this style before. Either way, it is a fun way to work your way through the best book ever written. We hope you enjoy your 365 Day Challenge!

**January 1**  
Genesis 1-3

**January 9**  
Job 21-23

**January 17**  
Genesis 16-18

**January 25**  
Genesis 38-40

**January 2**  
Genesis 4-7

**January 10**  
Job 24-28

**January 18**  
Genesis 19-21

**January 26**  
Genesis 41-42

**January 3**  
Genesis 8-11

**January 11**  
Job 29-31

**January 19**  
Genesis 22-24

**January 27**  
Genesis 43-45

**January 4**  
Job 1-5

**January 12**  
Job 32-34

**January 20**  
Genesis 25-26

**January 28**  
Genesis 46-47

**January 5**  
Job 6-9

**January 13**  
Job 35-37

**January 21**  
Genesis 27-29

**January 29**  
Genesis 48-50

**January 6**  
Job 10-13

**January 14**  
Job 38-39

**January 22**  
Genesis 30-31

**January 30**  
Exodus 1-3

**January 7**  
Job 14-16

**January 15**  
Job 40-42

**January 23**  
Genesis 32-34

**January 31**  
Exodus 4-6

**January 8**  
Job 17-20

**January 16**  
Genesis 12-15

**January 24**  
Genesis 35-37

# DECEMBER PRAYER LIST

BE A  
Prayer  
WARRIOR

## Pray For God's People

- 1: John and Faye Vos
- 2: Brent and Brenda Wassman; Alyssa, Austin
- 3: Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar; Justin, Caleb, Josh, Colby
- 4: AJ and Jenny Weg; Addison
- 5: Michael Wielenga and Amber Mortensen; Haiden, Berkley, Maddie, Dane
- 6: Pray for our College Students
- 7: Pray for our Church
- 8: Lawrence and Ruth Ann Wiersma
- 9: Ryan Wiersma
- 10: Kody and Rachel Wills; Kenzie
- 11: Geneva Wissink
- 12: Gary Wolter
- 13: Pray for our College Students
- 14: Pray for our Church
- 15: Renae Wolter
- 16: Chris and Tiffany Wynia; Elizabeth, Codie, Mackenzie
- 17: Charlie and Brenda Ackerman; Leah, Marissa
- 18: Dean and Michelle Ackerman; Adam
- 19: Derek and Megan Ackerman
- 20: Pray for our College Students
- 21: Pray for our Church
- 22: Mitchel and Angie Ackerman; Lars
- 23: Terry and Chrissy Ackerman; Zoe, Jaeger
- 24: Brian and Chelsey Alexander; Kimberlie
- 25: Brian and Elia Altoff; Will, Gracia
- 26: Mike and Melissa Anderson; Gabby, Alex, Jude, Lucy, Ezra
- 27: Pray for our College Students
- 28: Pray for our Church
- 29: Bobby and Dee Baker
- 30: John and Sharon Bartels
- 31: Gretchen Bartelson

### College Students:

Lars Ackerman

Meggan Block

Peyton Chrichton

Britta Harberts

Andrea Meyer

Garrett Saylor

Makayla Tangeman

Colby Wagenaar

Collin Van Diepen

Adam Ackerman

Kailey Bruxvoort

Josh Wagenaar

Evan Mehls

Lexi Ackerman

Sarah Honken

Jena Van Marel

Alecia Martinez

Ignacio Romero

Devan Vander Veen

Owen Wiese

Brooke Block

Hannah Lucas

Be joyful in hope, patient in  
affliction, faithful in prayer.

Romans 12:12



# January Celebrations

## ~~*Birthdays*~~

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1 Jan Harskamp<br>Brenda Wassman             | 10 Keith Michelson<br>Devan Vander Veen                             | 22 Steven<br>Zevenbergen  |
| 5 Phyllis Vander<br>Linden<br>Sandy De Vries | 11 Kevin Michelson  | 23 Rachel Van Zanten  |
| 6 Ed Meendering<br>Damian Van Der<br>Sloot   | 12 Lynn Schram<br>Alexis Hulstein                                   | 24 Jayden De Boer   |
| 7 Tracee Brouwer<br>Ashley Heronimus         | 14 Jacob Fox<br>Mim Ernst   | 25 Kalie De Boer<br>Gaylord Kruger  |
| 8 Robert Groen                               | 16 Karen Ten Napel  | 26 Rhonda Riebeling<br>Travis Klaassen<br>Dr. Brian Sayler<br>Heath De Jong |
| 9 Henry Fisher<br>Marcia Oldenkamp           | 17 Brayden Bruxvoort  | 27 Brady Block  |
|  | 18 Janice Groen<br>Matthew Runia<br>Tanya Dykstra<br>Tanner Dykstra | 28 Jon Elser<br>Donna Smidt   |
|  | 20 Kathy Runia  | 30 Karen Honken   |
|  |   | 31 Jurnea Harberts  |



## ~~*Anniversaries*~~

- |                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| 2 Leroy & Karen Stevenson | 44 years |
| 19 Joel & Kathy Verdoorn  | 52 years |
| 26 Cole & Kayla Hoekstra  | 10 years |

If you would like to be included in our Birthday and Anniversary Calendar and do not see your name, please contact the office (sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com or 754-2783) and let us know your dates! We would love to recognize YOU on your special day! Thanks

# Sportsmen's Devotional



## Bible Study Verses

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you]. (Amplified)

Proverbs 23:4-5 Weary not yourself to be rich; cease from your own [human] wisdom. Will you set your eyes upon wealth, when [suddenly] it is gone? For riches certainly make themselves wings, like an eagle that flies toward the heavens. (Amplified)

## Thoughts

Do you ever find yourself on autopilot? You go through each day doing what needs to be done. Sometimes you snatch a wise phrase here or there of God's Word, but not necessarily anything that deepens your relationship with God.

Our life gradually fills up with various demands and stresses. Unexpectedly, we find ourselves lashing out at those we love, or catch ourselves falling into sin we never imagined ourselves falling for.

**Whoa!!!** (Rebecca)

## Action Point

In today's verses we are encouraged to be changed by the renewing of our mind! The only way to renew our mind is to refresh our mind in God's holy living Word. When you first wake up, say, "Hello," to God who has given you another glorious day!!!

Connect with Your Creator!!! He is just hanging out giving you rain, sunshine, a cool breeze, a great day fishing, or a soul-renewing hike--if you only clear your mind and see His Creation.

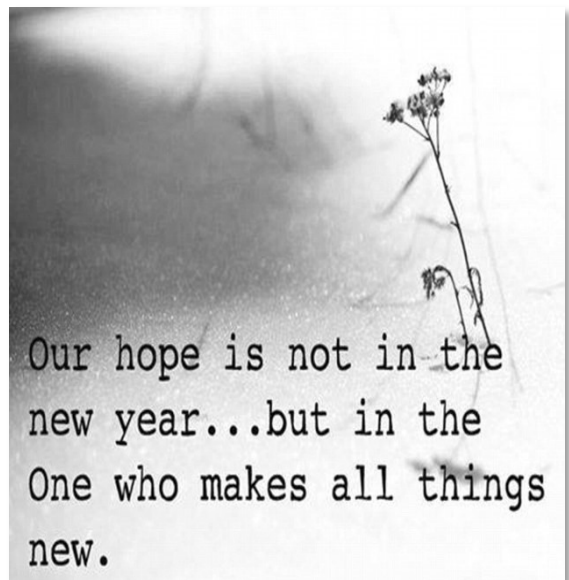
Open up His book and see what He has to say. Talk to Him on your commute to work, or when you're out enjoying what He has made for you!!!

**When you realize you've been on autopilot...** open up His manual and choose to let Him be your pilot!!!

## Sportsman's Tip of the Day

Don't approach your next hunt on autopilot:

- Scout your area to see where the herd is running.
- Keep your guns in good working order. After each firing, clean them thoroughly and regularly.
- Make sure you site them in for accuracy.
- Set aside time prior to the hunt for the special people in your life.
- *Invite those who are special to go with you, even if they just want to stay in camp while you hunt.*



Our hope is not in the  
new year...but in the  
One who makes all things  
new.



## From the library--

### We have four new LARGE PRINT books in the library.

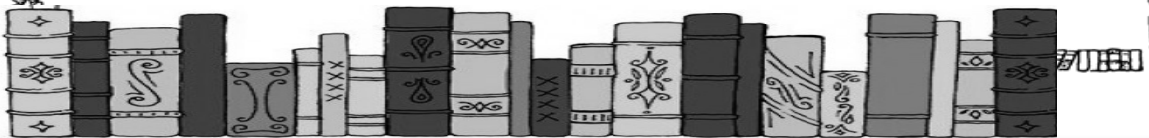
The first one is ***Blue Ridge Sunrise***. “When Zoe returns home with her daughter and boyfriend Kyle, she finds that she’s the only person in town who doesn’t expect her to give up the life she’s established far away from Copper Creek. Everyone believes she was born to run the orchard, but can she make it her home after so many years.”

The second book to look for is: ***The Noel Diary***, by Richard Paul Evans.

We also have ***Sound of Fear*** by Marta Perry. Here is a synopsis found in the book: “The foundation of Amanda Curtis’s very existence cracks the moment she discovers the woman she thought was her mother had never given birth. Where she belongs is a question she can’t put to rest. But when the clues lead to a charming yet chilling small town, the threat against her begins to unfold. Trey Addison is a fixture in Echo Falls, the town and the people are his to protect. He was born to take his place in the family legal firm but now that a stranger, desperate to unlock her past, is depending on him, he’s forced to make an impossible choice. If Trey doesn’t protect Amanda she’ll walk straight into a deadly trap. If he helps her expose the secrets that haunt her, the truth could shatter them both.

The newest Karen Kingsbury is now in our library. ***In This Moment*** (The Baxter Family): “Luke Baxter, a lawyer specializing in religious freedom cases, takes on the fight of his life when public high school principal Wendell Quinn is sued for starting an after-school Bible study called “Raise the Bar.” Wendell has already lost the love of his life because of the program, but still he refuses to end it. Thanks to the program, Hamilton High has seen a dramatic decrease in drug abuse, violence, and teen pregnancies that once plagued the student population. However, this lawsuit threatens to bring everything to a halt. But God’s truth won’t be silenced, and Luke Baxter vows to stand up for Wendell Quinn. Because the fight is about more than statistics, improved test scores, and better student life—it’s about religious liberty and protecting the very things Wendell and the Baxters hold dear: faith, family, and freedom. At home, though, Luke struggles to keep his work from taking over his life. His wife, Reagan worries about his increased hours and time away from the family. She knows his job is crucial, but at what cost?

Visit the library soon and check out a book. ~~~Jeannette Juffer



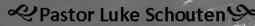
### Trivia Time Answers!!!

1. “Jesus Wept” (John 11:35)
2. Methuselah lived 969 years (Genesis 5:27)
3. Paul (Acts 13:1-3)
4. Esther and Ruth
- 5: Seven. He was officially named on the eighth day (Luke 2:21)

# New In The Pew...

Thank You For Joining Us!

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Status:  Single  Married  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age Groups:  0-12  13-19  20-29  30-39  40-49  50-59  60-Older  
Children:  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please check the applicable boxes:  
 First time visitor  Returning visitor  New to area  Would like a visit  
 Would like to know more about this Church  
 Would like to know more about being a Christian  
Guest of: \_\_\_\_\_

 Pastor Luke Schouten

Please place this card in the offering plate as it is passed. Thank You!

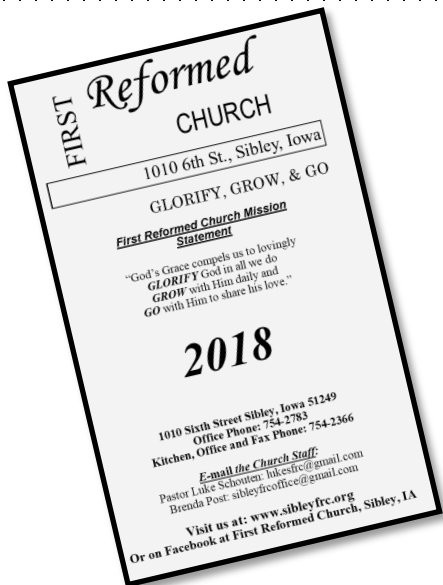
As you are sitting in church take a moment to notice a change...  
**The Friendship Pads are GONE!!**

It was decided to go with something new in the pew. Instead of a Friendship Pad we have now placed Visitor Info Cards in the holder on the back of the pew. These will help us identify our visitors plus provide the office with more detailed information

that will be beneficial in keeping in touch with new faces. If you are new to our church, or you have brought along someone who is new, we encourage you or your visitor to fill out the card and place it in the Offering Plate as it is passed. We can't wait to get to know you!!

## New for 2018

We are currently in the process of getting our directory automated!! We will still print the paper directory, however, in the near future we will also be introducing a Directory App that, after a simple set up, will allow you to access phone numbers, e-mails, and family information at the touch of a button. We will also be introducing our Brand New Website in the months to come!!!! Our goal of these innovations is to improve communication with not only our Congregational Members but also with visitors and newcomers to our community. If you have any questions about either of these updates feel free to ask.



# Meet Our



# Missionaries

## Brian and Donna Renes

Confidential. Secret. Hidden. Concealed.

False Identity. Fake name. Pseudonym.

No internet. No file synchronization. No risks.

We lift our eyes to the hills, where does our help come from?

It has been an incredible and humbling experience for me to work with translators and teams that face danger. It seems that this year, more than in any previous year, I have had to help teams that need to be careful. Several times this year I have met translation teams in neutral locations. Few weeks go by without questions about how a team can use current computer technology to do their work but at the same time conceal their identity. Some of these translators have a regular job, like a driver during the day and log into an encrypted and hidden part of their computer at night to work on their translation of the Bible. Some translators are refugees and able to work on the translation freely but then have great difficulty getting the translation back to the people in their home country. For others, their families have fled but the translators have stayed to continue the work of translation, in spite of the dangers. One translator shared with me that only two people from his Church know he is translating the Bible. Isolation, separation and danger are constant realities for many. I wish I could show you pictures or share their names, but the risks are too great.

Remain faithful in prayer. You bring hope; you bring life to many unreached, unknown, isolated... but dearly loved people.

Your partners in mission,  
Brian and Donna

### About Brian's Ministry

*Brian serves as a computer consultant for Bible translation projects. He teaches national workers how to effectively use the computer in their work of translating the Bible into languages such as Quechua, which is spoken in Peru, and the Kuna language of Panama. Donna ministers to Hispanic children in the Sioux Center, Iowa, area through the teaching of English as a Second Language.*



*In challenging situations, new translations are being dedicated.*



*Working together and using computers, God's Word is translated.*

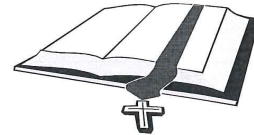


# Bible Wisdom

Uncover some wisdom from the book of Ecclesiastes by carefully following the instructions below. Are you wise enough to solve this on your first attempt?

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Truth	The	Wise	end	foolish	of
2	a	people	matter	lesson	meaningless	is
3	numbers	better	than	acts	its	world
4	beginning	gift	kingdom	and	wrongdoer	patience
5	lies	is	certain	will	better	job
6	than	knowing	property	pride	celebrate	saint

1. Cross out all the words in Columns A and F that have five letters.
2. Cross out all the words in the table that rhyme with eyes.
3. Cross out all words that are books of the Bible.
4. Cross out all words in Row 2 that have more than two vowels.
5. Cross out all words in Column D that have double letters.
6. Cross out all words in Row 4 that contain all the letters in GOD.
7. Cross out all 7-letter words.
8. Cross out all words in Column B that end in T.
9. Cross out all words in Row 6 that have three syllables.



Write the remaining words here, in order from left to right and top to bottom:

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## Bible Wordsearch

## White Robes

Wordsearch 201

Rev.7:10-17

L M E S I A R P Y R O L G H S  
 O W N E Y E S T R A E T T T R  
 U I O W L A G H J E A G A N E  
 D S R A E D N I S E N N T E D  
 R D H T A I I R B E D I S T L  
 O O T E D C R S R I E E G I E  
 B M R R P E P T N T R T B H S  
 E P I W T H S G S V E L I A T  
 S Y O N O R E G E S O M Y H F  
 R G E N E U R R N O K I P A W  
 E C O W A S H E D O N N C L F  
 V R O D L I V I N G L E A E E  
 E P N O I T A V L A S E L H N  
 N E M A N G E L S A M L B E T  
 L A M B R E G N U H G R E A T

AMEN BELONGS  
 ANGELS CENTER  
 BEAT HUNGER  
 BLOOD POWER  
 ELDERS ROBES  
 EYES SALVATION  
 FACES SAYING  
 FELL SERVE  
 GLORY SHEPHERD  
 GOD SPREAD  
 GREAT SPRINGS  
 HONOR STANDING  
 LAMB STRENGTH  
 LEAD TEMPLE  
 LIVING THANKS  
 LOUD THIRST  
 NEVER THRONE  
 NIGHT VOICE  
 PRAISE WASHED  
 TEAR WATER  
 TENT WHITE  
 WIPE WISDOM

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

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Psalm 8



## CONSISTORY MINUTES

Elders Meeting  
December 11, 2017, 6:00 pm

**8 present, a quorum**

235. Pastor Luke opened the meeting by offering prayer.
236. MMSC to approve the transfer of Cory and Anne Maxwell and baptized son Kyler from the Trinity Lutheran Church in Sibley.
237. MMSC to approve the Profession of Faith of Kayden and Kaylee Maxwell.
238. MMSC to approve the baptism of Haley Klaassen, daughter of Clint and Jamie Klaassen on Sunday, January 7, 2018 at the combined service.
239. MMSC to approve the church use for Megan Block and Chad Travaille on August 3-4, 2018 for a wedding.
240. The constitutional question was asked, "Are there any members needing any spiritual care?" and discussed.
241. Elders reported on various contacts and concerns of members within their calling districts.
242. MMSC to remove friendship pads from the pews in the Sanctuary and replace them with a visitor card.
243. Recommendations to full Consistory for the 2018 offices are the following: Duane Vande Hoef, Vice-President, Heath De Jong, Clerk and Dale Honken, Assistant Clerk.
244. It was reported that 265 people were served communion on December 3, 2017.
245. MMSC to approve these minutes as read.
246. MMSC to adjourn following closing prayer by Pastor Luke.

## Consistory Meeting (2017 Consistory) December 11, 2017, 6:00 pm

**17 present, a quorum**

247. Pastor Luke opened with devotions from Luke 1:46-55 followed by prayer.
248. The various ministry teams gave their ministry team reports.
249. Josh Lucas updated the consistory of the MS Remnant Power Connection Trip scheduled for July 24-29, 2018.
250. Josh Lucas gave an update on the Samaritan's Purse mission trip to Texas in the summer of 2018.
251. MMSC to approve the new wording on the application for the Mission Trip Reimbursement form for expenses.
252. The treasurer's report was given.
253. Deacons business was reported.
254. The retiring 2017 Consistory members left and the 2018 Consistory business was started.

255. Newly elected Elder's and Deacon's will be Ordained and Installed (or just installed) on January 7, 2018 at the combined worship service at 10 am.
256. MMSC to approve the 2018 Communion dates. They are: February 4, March 29, May 13, July 1, August 19, October 7 (World Wide Communion) and December 2, 2018.
257. MMSC to approve the 2018 offering schedule.
258. Consistory meetings will continue to be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month with Elders and Deacons meeting at 6 pm and full consistory at 7 pm.
259. MMSC to approve the election of consistory officers: Vice president-Duane Vande Hoef, Clerk-Heath De Jong, Asst, Clerk-Dale Honken, General Fund Treasurer-Charlie Kuhl, Asst, General Fund Treasurer-Greg Tracy, Chairmen of Deacons-Dr. Brian Saylor, Property Chairman-Daren Rockman.
260. MMSC to approve these minutes as read.
261. MMSC to adjourn following prayer by Dale Honken.

## Funeral Serving Policy

In October of 2017, The Consistory voted in a new policy regarding how funerals will be handled at First Reformed Church. This vote was based on survey's that had been handed out in the beginning of summer, collected and tallied. When this vote came down from the Consistory in October, group leaders were notified of the change, which was effective immediately. The following are the new guidelines:

- Serve buffet style with 2 lines starting at middle of kitchen window. If the immediate family requests, we will serve them at their table.
- Use disposable plates (***furnished by church***) for the food and "real" cups and silverware.
- Tables will be set with silverware, placemats, and napkins. Coffee server, water pitcher, glass with a few spoons in it, a few glasses, and coffee cups will be in the center of each table.
- Cake will be ordered from the bakery, at family expense. Currently, the bakery charges \$45 for 64, 2" by 3" pieces or 96, 2" by 2" pieces.
- **Buns, chips or potato salad, and bakery cake will be the standard menu. If family wants more, it is their responsibility to make it or have it at church in time.**
- Catering is always an option. The family is to make the arrangements and let the serving group leader know as soon as possible.
- Non-church members are encouraged to have it catered.
- We will leave the serving as is it now, with each group having a month at a time in rotation.

# FRC in Action...

# 2017



3 year olds—  
Kindergarten Students



1st grade—3rd grade  
Students

# Christmas Program



4th and 5th Grade  
Students



# "Christmas Star"