



The Newsletter

December 2025



**Operation
Christmas
Child**



What does 86 Shoeboxes mean?
86 Christmas Gifts for children!

But More Importantly...

**86 Children who will receive the best
gift of all, the knowledge of saving
grace through Jesus Christ.**

**May you all be blessed
for your participation!!**

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

December at a Glance

- 8: 11:30 am: Faith Bible Study** salad luncheon at Osceola Sr. Assisted Living
- **6:00 pm Elder & Deacon Meetings**
(New 2025 Elders/Deacons are invited to attend all meetings)
- **6:30 pm Consistory Supper**
followed by Full Consistory Meeting
- **7:00 pm Full Consistory** will meet
- 10: Sharing Christmas Gifts** are due at church (wrapped and tagged)
- 14: 11:00 am Children's Christmas Program**
- 15: 3:00pm: Patience Bible Study**
Christmas Gathering
- 15-26: FRC** is in charge of **Meals on Wheels**
- 17: 6:30-7:30pm FRC Christmas Caroling**
- 19: January Newsletter Deadline**
- 24: 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service**
- 24/31: No Bible Classes & Youth Group**
- 28/4: No Sunday School**
- 31: 2:00pm FRC** is in charge of **Nursing Home Services**

***Sundays:**

- 9:00 am Praise & Worship Service
- 10:10 am Sunday School for 3yrs-Adult
- 10:10 am Coffee Fellowship Time
- 6:30 pm Fellowship Bible Studies

***Tuesdays:**

- 8:30 am Quilting Chicks will meet

***Wednesday Evening:**

- 6:00 pm Family Night Supper
- 6:30 pm Pioneer Clubs for 1st-5th grades
- 6:30 pm Middle School Remnant
- 7:30 pm High School Remnant

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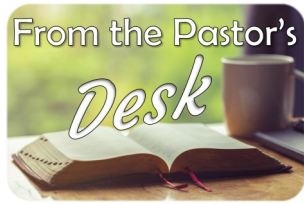
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There are certain things which are spiritually dangerous to talk about, not because there's anything wrong with the subject, but because of what talking about them can do to the speaker. Jesus warned us about this in the Sermon on the Mount. We should beware of doing things that seem like we're serving God, but really we're trying to impress people with how spiritual we are. I don't believe these warning passages are blanket prohibitions against talking about certain subjects, but rather warnings to make darn sure you need to be talking about these things if you do talk, and to make sure you don't fall into a spiritual trap. Today I'm going to run that hazard.

I have been much in prayer recently. I want to hasten to add that this is a new thing for me. When I was an Arminian I had a wonderful prayer life. When I became a Calvinist that all stopped. I feel that in some ways my growth in prayer has been stunted since the late 1990's and I am just getting my sea legs back under me again.

When I pray, I am praying for our town. I am praying for our church. I am praying for you as individuals. Some days I pray for only an hour. Some days I pray for two or more hours. I am beginning to understand how prayer works and how it affects the physical world. It is very encouraging, and causes prayer to beget more prayer. This season of prayer has also been highly interactive. I have encountered God in some pretty amazing ways. I have also met with the demonic on a regular basis. That shouldn't surprise anyone. We were clearly told that our main battle was not with flesh and blood. The real enemy is the forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. I promise, if you are really praying, you are interacting with the demonic. If you aren't aware of that fact in a visceral and real way, that just means they've got you fooled and you don't see what you need to see to pray most effectively.

A few weeks ago I had an unusual experience while I was praying. I'm not sure what to call it, so I'll just call it a dynamic image. I must emphasize that this is not something that usually happens to me. It's not something I sought. It's not something I'm at all comfortable talking about. But it was real.

In this dynamic image I was standing in the back of the sanctuary of the church. It was empty. The lights were off, and it was dark, but it wasn't so dark you couldn't see. Through the windows in the back I could see all of you in the fellowship hall, seated around the tables drinking coffee and eating bars and cookies, or standing in line, or just standing around talking to each other. It was crowded. The lights of the fellowship hall were bright. Some of you were talking about productive things and interacting with one another in a kind and encouraging way. Some of you were being snippy about others in the room or others in the community. Some of you were complaining. Some of you felt isolated or offended. Some of you felt alone, even if you were conversing with another person. The thought came hot into my mind that, no matter if you were engaged in innocent activities or sinful ones at that moment, there was one great fact about all of the things taking place in that room: It was all completely dominated by the horizontal. You were thinking about people, either yourself or someone else. God was not in anyone's thoughts in any significant way, even though you were in his house, just a few yards from the sanctuary where we are supposed to worship him. And I was given to understand that this was not an unusual state of affairs, but rather was

and is the normal way of things. This fact accounted for the reason why our churches run as they do; that is, as pale imitations of the world.

As I watched you all from the deepening darkness of the sanctuary, I became aware of a growing glow coming from the front of the darkened room. I turned, and this is what I saw: The communion table was bare and a fire was kindled upon it. It was not a natural fire. It was a supernatural fire. It did not smoke. It did not destroy the communion table or damage the building. It slowly began to grow larger and brighter, flickering and crackling. Someone in the fellowship hall noticed too, and nudged his neighbor to look. Then another noticed. Then another.

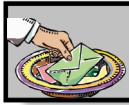
Soon everyone in the fellowship hall had stopped talking and had turned to look at the fire. Some even went into the sanctuary to take a closer look at it. You were no longer obsessed with yourselves or with other people. Your attention was transfixed on the fire at the front of the sanctuary. Everything else was forgotten. The fire was God. Now, God had always been there, but his presence was not something you could see or feel. He was not manifest. You theoretically acknowledged it, but it really didn't hold much practical significance to you because you couldn't see him or hear him or feel him under normal circumstances. This gave the horizontal, which is constantly present to our senses, a greater urgency and importance than the vertical. But now with a fire kindled in the front of the room, all that was out the window. The vertical had asserted itself. God was present in an undeniable and unexplainable way, and you all noticed. And the noticing changed you. It changes everything.

I suspect this is what God is going to do among us at some point. He's just going to show up in a dramatic, undeniable way and capture everyone's attention. It won't be because of anything anyone does. Indeed, it will be in spite of many of the things that folks do. It will be a sovereign move of God. There is ample historical warrant for such a thing. This, fundamentally, is what a revival is. God just shows up in power and people become irresistibly aware of him and drawn to him. He changes them, usually for the rest of their lives.

I long for this to happen. I want to see it before I die. I am praying for God to manifest himself among us in the day of his power. I ask you to pray with me for this to happen as well. It is our best hope.

Consistory Meeting Highlights November 17, 2025

- Various property items were discussed (parsonage basement walls, snow removal, Media upgrades, waterlines)
- 185 individuals were served Communion on 11/16/2025
- Approval was granted for the Lunch Break Book Club - 6 in '26.
- Outreach reported 86 shoeboxes were taken to distribution center in Worthington
- Staff evaluations were reported on
- Christmas Program will be held December 14 at 11am
- Christmas Eve Service will be held at 6:00 pm
- Olivia Daiker will make her Profession of Faith during the service on November 23.



Stewardship & Giving

Offering Summary through November 29:

- **General Fund: \$353,922.11**
Budget: \$363,794.52; 97% of budget
 - **Benevolent Fund: \$22,363.86**
Budget: \$61,125; 37% of budget
 - **Building Fund offerings to date: \$1190**
- *****

Average Monthly Offering Needed:

\$35,493.29

Total Ben./Gen. Offerings through November 29

\$40,755.76

*Total Ben/Gen offering does not include
"Special Monthly Offering" donations as they
are technically not part of the estimated budget.*

Special Offering for December

Bethany[®]
CHRISTIAN SERVICES

Faith In Action for December: Sharing Christmas Families



Gifts need to be brought to Church by:

December 10



1 Kings Trivia Time

1. The king of Israel was envious of my vineyard. His wife had me put to death when I wouldn't sell it to him. Who am I?
2. During my reign over Israel, the people rebelled against me and made another man king. Because of God's promise to my grandfather, I remained king over Judah. Who am I?
3. Which son of David tried to make himself king but was overruled by David himself who then made another of his sons king?
4. While Solomon was building the temple, he built ten movable stand of bronze. How wide were these stands in today's measurements?
5. Who did Solomon ask to bring him Cedars of Lebanon to help build the temple?
6. Who hid 100 of God's prophets in two caves so that Jezebel, queen of Israel, couldn't kill them?
7. It was said of him, "I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad." Who was this?
8. What person, who shared a name with a future king of Judah, was made the recorder during Solomon's reign?
9. While Solomon was king, he had a daily provision of 30 cors of flour. How much is that in pounds?

Praise and Worship Greeters

- 7: E: John and Kim McDougall
C: Dave and Jessica McDyer
W: Leona Meendering
- 14: E: Dick and Marcia Oldenkamp
C: Lyle Peelen
W: Larry and Rhonda Riebeling
- 21: E: Daren Rockman
C: Marlin Roelfs
W: Marlin and Kathy Runia
- Christmas Eve**
- 24: E: Brian and Heidi Sayler/family
C: Eric Schiphoff
W: Hugh Schiphoff
- 28: E: Lynn Schram
C: Verlyn and Donna Vos
W: Dave and Lesa Stofferan

Library Volunteers



- 7: Leona Meendering
14: Janice Runia
21: Pauline Van Engen
28: Marcia Van Ruler

Pastoral Visitation Link

To allow easy Pastoral Visit Scheduling a new link has been created.

Please visit the following link:

<https://calendly.com/frcpastorbrian>

Or scan the QR Code. Please contact the office if you have questions or would like to personally schedule a visit.



Children & Worship during the service



	Leader	Helper
7:	Deb Kusters	Donna Smidt
14:	Deb Kusters	Olivia Daiker/Grace Hoekstra
21:	Deb Kusters	Donna Smidt
28:	No Children and Worship	

Worship Service Nursery

- 7: Laurel & Natalie Klaassen
14: Amy Van Marel & Jodi Wagenaar
21: Sandy Heronimus & Sandy Lamfers
28: Chelsey Alexander & Alexis Van Diepen

Fellowship Coffee Servers

- 7: Lawrence and Ruth Ann Wiersma
14: Nate and Angel Buysman
21: Laura and Jordan Carpenter
28: Ron and Nancy Dykstra

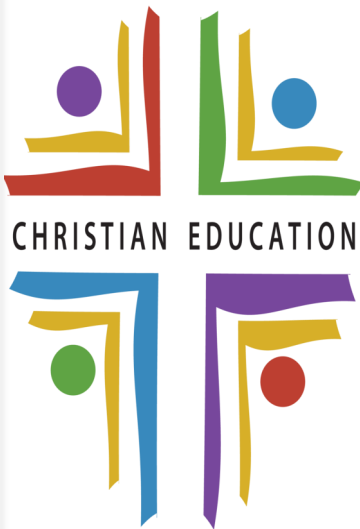
Willing Hands Group

Willing Hands Group #6

will be responsible for services during the month.

Co-chairpersons are:

- Peg/Curt Van Kley
- Rhonda/Larry Riebeling



Education Schedule:

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.

Sunday School 3 yr - Adult:

December 28 and January 4:

No Sunday School due to Christmas Break

Wednesday Pioneer Clubs (1st-5th grades):

December 24 and 31:

No Classes due to Christ Break

MS and HS Remnant Youth Group:

December 24 and 31:

No Classes due to Christ Break

College Addresses

Carter Brouwer
2013 Fox Run Trail
Brookings, SD 57006

Ted Van Gelder
815 3rd Ave.
Brookings, SD 57007

Grant Brouwer
1235 SE University Ave
Apt. #205
Waukee, IA 50263

Halle Block
4710 Mortensen Road
Unit 201
Ames, IA 50014

Madison Brouwer
20 Alumni Street
Apt. 206
Vermillion, SD 57069

Keegan De Zeeuw
812 University Street
Box #173
Pella, IA 50219

Maverick Elser
802 6th Street
Apt. 206
Ames, IA 50010

Emma Langstraat
502 12th Ave
Brookings, SD 57006

Michael Block Jr.
208 8th Street SW Unit
PO Box 103
Orange City, IA 51041

Grace Bevers
808 N. University Street
McFadden 304
Vermillion, SD 57069

Ella Bruxvoort
409 12th Ave NE
Sibley, IA 51249

Aiden DeZeeuw
204 Beach Road
Room 532
Ames, IA 50013-0025

Karissa Hulstein
One Triton Circle
#812
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Alex Bosma
100 Currier Hall
N220
Iowa City, IA 52242

Elliot Daiker
Welch Hall, Ayres
255 Richardson Ct,
#1262
Ames, IA 50013-0023

Cole Dykstra
2801 Ohio St.
RID-136
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Sofia Hisek
610 West 4th Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Alexis Hulstein
5929 230th Street
Melvin, IA 51350

Alyssa Jacobsma
1101 W 22nd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Addysen Langstraat
861 Jackrabbit Ave.
Binnewies Hall
303 A1
Brookings, SD 57006

Kaylee Maxwell
4644 200th Street
George, IA 51237

If your student will have a different address for the 2025-2026 school year please let the office know.



Faith Bible Study, will meet on **Monday, December 8 at 11:30 am** at Osceola Senior Living (Assisted Living) for a Christmas Salad Luncheon. Please bring a salad to share with the group.



Patience Bible Study, will meet on **Monday, December 15 at 3:00 pm** for a Christmas Gathering. Please bring a plate of goodies to share with the group.

Fellowship Bible Study Opportunities!

****Sermon Discussion Group****

Library at 6:30 pm Sunday Evenings

****Digging into God's Word****

FRC Fireside Room Sunday Nights at 6:30pm

****From Dust to Glory****

Couldn't make it to Sunday School on Sunday morning?

Join us for a repeat of the class at 6:30 pm in the Fireside Room on Wednesday Evenings



December Family Supper Menu:

Dec 3: Scalloped Potatoes and Ham & Salad

Dec 10: Tator Tot Casserole & Roll

Dec 17: (Caroling) Chili Soup and
Ham & Cheese Sandwiches

Dec 24/31: Christmas Break No Pioneer Club

All meals include fruit & fresh vegi option, cookies/bars, and milk, water or juice to drink. Ham sandwiches are available in place of the main entree.

December Offering:

Pancake Mix, Syrup,
Muffin Mix, Oatmeal, Hot Cereal,
Granola Bars, Breakfast Bars,

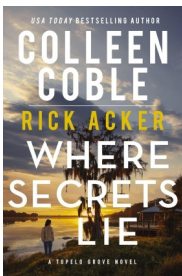
6:00 Family Night Supper

**6:30-7:30pm 1st-5th Grade
Pioneer Clubs Activities**



From the library--

2025 is almost gone! Crazy how fast time goes when you are busy living in the moment. As the days grow colder and the daylight grows shorter now is a great time to explore the FRC Library and find a good book! While I have found that audiobooks fit great into my schedule, I know there are a lot of "hold-a-book-in-my-hand" avid readers in this church! I have had a great time searching out new books I think you will enjoy! Below are short synopsizes of the last four new books for the year. I hope you all find time to visit the library and maybe discover a new author or a new series you haven't tried before. I have plenty more books to add to our collection in 2026, including a couple new authors that I greatly enjoy and can't wait to share with you!

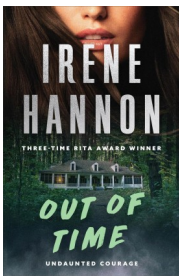


Our first December book, ***Where Secrets Lie***, is by **Colleen Coble** and is the second book in the "Tupelo Grove" series. College professor Savannah Webster is ready to give her ex-husband, Hez, another chance, and she believes he's finally ready for them to face their many past trials as a team. But when Savannah finds evidence that points to Hez's old demons resurfacing, the fragile trust they've built begins to crumble. And it's not just their relationship that hanging in the balance--the survival of the university Savannah's family poured their lives into is also under threat.



The twists continue until the final page as a dangerous world of smuggling and financial instability collides with the complex dynamics of legacy and family.

Code Trama, a novella, is book 1.5 in the series "Extreme Measures" by **Lynette Eason**. Flight Nurse Practitioner, Holly Cooper, has an enemy who wants her gone from the hospital one way or another. She and her fiancé, Detective Andy McKittrick are "taking a break", and a patient has died under mysterious circumstances. Life is complicated at the moment so when she's attacked, her friends--and "on hold" fiancé come to the rescue. Andy may have his issues, but he's never stopped loving Holly. When he hears someone is out to get her, he races to her side. Can they find a killer before the killer succeeds in sending Holly six feet under?



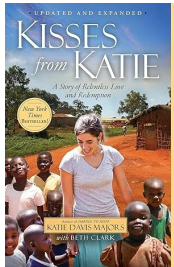
Our third addition is the latest book in the long awaited continuation of the "Undaunted Courage" series, ***Out of Time*** by **Irene Hannon**. For historical anthropologist Cara Tucker, the chance to spend a sabbatical semester on a remote country estate--with full access to its vast library and century-old journals--is a dream come true . . . until a series of strange incidents begins to turn her dream into a nightmare. Someone, it seems, does not want anyone diving into the past and unearthing old ghosts.

Sheriff Brad Mitchell has seen his share of suspicious activities during his law enforcement career, but what's happening at the isolated estate is out-of-pattern in his quiet, rural Missouri county. Beset by danger, Cara and Brad work together to try to untangle the clues.

But when the peril turns lethal, the situation takes on a new urgency, and their mission is clear: Find out who is behind the string of menacing incidents before the perpetrator strikes another deadly blow.

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From the library cont.--



Our final library addition for 2025 is a **biography of Katie Davis, called *Kisses from Katie***. What would cause an eighteen-year-old senior class president and homecoming queen from Nashville, Tennessee, to disobey and disappoint her parents by forgoing college, break her little brother's heart, lose all but a handful of her friends (because they think she has gone off the deep end), and break up with the love of her life, all so she could move to Uganda, where she knew only one person and didn't even speak the language?

A passion to follow Jesus.

Katie Davis Majors left over Christmas break of her senior year for a short mission trip to Uganda and her life was turned completely inside out. She found herself so moved by the people of Uganda and the needs she saw that she knew her calling was to return and care for them. Katie, a charismatic and articulate young woman, adopted thirteen children in Uganda and has established a ministry, Amazima, that feeds and sends hundreds more to school while teaching them the Word of Jesus Christ.

Kisses from Katie invites readers on a journey of radical love down the red dirt roads of Uganda. You'll laugh and cry with Katie as she follows Jesus into the impossible and finds joy and beauty beneath the dust. Katie and her children delight in saying yes to the people God places in front of them and challenge readers to do the same, changing the world one person at a time.



BE A
Prayer
WARRIOR
Like 21:30

Luke 21:36

Our Missionaries

Dr. Bernadeth Kelly &
Adrian Bobb
Sayuri Kist—Okazaki
Brian & Donna Renes
J.J. & Tim TenClay
Rowland & Jan Van Es
Grace Covenant Ministries
Jeff and Chelsea Lampen

PRAYER JOURNAL

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PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Nathan and Angie Buysman | 16. Stan and Abby De Zeeuw;
Keegan, Aiden, Joselyn, Addison |
| 2. David and JoAnn Calsbeek | 17. Kelsey Doorenbos |
| 3. Margaret Calsbeek | 18. Merlin and Karen Doorenbos |
| 4. Pastor Brian and Laura Carpenter;
Evelyn, Jordan | 19. Paul Doorenbos |
| 5. Levi and Kira Christensen;
Connor, Riley | 20. Pray for our College Students |
| 6. Pray for our College Students | 21. Pray for our Church |
| 7. Pray for our Church | 22. Cory and Amy Dykstra; Cole |
| 8. Karla Crichton; Regan, Hadley | 23. LaVon Dykstra |
| 9. Dale and Marilynn DeBoer | 24. Mark and Tanya Dykstra |
| 10. Larry and Melissa DeBoer; Kendra | 25. Makya Dykstra |
| 11. Le Roy and Glenda DeBoer | 26. Ron and Nancy Dykstra |
| 12. Mark and Angie DeBoer | 27. Pray for our College Students |
| 13. Pray for our College Students | 28. Pray for our Church |
| 14. Pray for our Church | 29. Scott and Marlys Dykstra |
| 15. Gary and Sandy DeVries | 30. Trudy Dykstra |
| | 31. Luella Eggink |

<u>College Students:</u>	Grace Beavers	Halle Block	Ted Van Gelder
Alex Bosma	Michael Block Jr.	Madison Brouwer	
Elliot Daiker	Ella Bruxvoort	Keegan De Zeeuw	Carter Brouwer
Cole Dykstra	Aiden De Zeeuw	Maverick Elser	
Sofia Hisek	Karissa Hulstein	Emma Langstraat	Grant Brouwer
Alexis Hulstein			
Alyssa Jacobsma			
Addysen Langstraat			
Kaylee Maxwell			



Dear Pastor Brian and
our friends at Sibley,
It's hard to be-
lieve that we're already
into November! Just
wanted to say thank you

so much for keeping Chelsea in prayer as she served at the General Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches which took place in Chiang Mai, Thailand. God worked in and through her in beautiful and remarkable ways at an event that was both God-honoring (all of the content) and stressful (event-planning/logistics). Bringing together around 600 participants from around the world is both a blessing and a challenge. You know what can really help when you're in the midst of a big-time challenge? Having someone that you love and trust right there with you. Through a funny turn of events, Chelsea's mom, Marvella, was able to join her in Thailand as assistant Minute-Recorder! Together, they were able to provide a listening ear, wise counsel, and friendship to brothers and sisters in Christ from around the world.

While all of that was happening in Thailand, life didn't stop here in Hannover. I continued to lead the congregation of Relish. Lorelei (12), Caspian (8), and Evander (3) kept up with their schoolwork and friendships. And my parents were able to visit us during the kids' Fall Break! The kids loved spending time with Grandma and Grandpa and showing them around some of their favorite spots in Hannover. Towards the end of their time with us, we managed to trace our Lampen family roots to the town of Nordhorn, right on the border of the Netherlands and Germany. Not only did we find the tiny village chapel where they likely worshiped, but we even found the small Lampen family plot in the old Reformed Church cemetery!

Looking ahead, we're entering the season of Advent by hosting a young family that will be visiting from Romania. We're celebrating American Thanksgiving by inviting members of the congregation to join us in our apartment for a potluck dinner/devotional time. And the kids are looking ahead to celebrations of St. Martin's Day with a lantern parade around the church and to St. Nicholas Day on December 6 (which also happens to be Evander's birthday!).

Thank you again for your support, and we pray that God continues to move and work through you all in Sibley!

In Christ,
Jeff and Chelsea





We have adopted 3 larger families and 2 seniors this year for Christmas. Lists are posted on the wall in the Fellowship Hall. Please be sure to mark off the item you plan to bring so the office knows what still needs to be purchased! All gifts will need to be turned in no later than Wednesday, December 10. Gifts will be delivered to Upper Des Moines on December 11. If anyone is interested in delivering the gifts to UDMO, please let the office know. Thanks!! Let's make this a great Christmas for our adopted families!!

Family #4

Adult Male: Cowboy boots size 11, Kansas City Chiefs Items, Socks, Med. Shirts, 28/20 pants, Cologne

Adult Female: 2XL Warm Tops, Bodywash/Lotion, Grocery Gift Cards, Walmart Gift Cards, Dollar Store Gift Cards

Girl age 13: Adult Large Kansas City Chiefs Sweatshirt, Makeup, Nail Stuff, Perfume/Body Spray/Lotion, Craft Kits

Boy age 7: Size 7/8 Pants, Size 7/8 Hooded Sweatshirt, Sketch Book, Art Supplies

Individual #3

Senior Female: Slippers size 8-9, Kitchen Towels, Body Lotion, Necklace, Walmart Gift Card, Grocery Card

Individual #2

Senior Female: 3XL Tops (Anything Kansas City Chiefs), XL Pants, Oscillating Fan, Body Lotion/Spray, Dollar Store Gift Cards, Grocery Cards

Family #5

Adult Male: 2XL Clothing /Socks, Cologne, Size 18 Shoes, Gas Cards/Grocery Cards

Adult Female: 2XL Clothing (loves the color pink), 2XL Sweater / Tops, Body Spray/Lotion, Gas Cards/Grocery Cards

Girl age 11: Size 10 Clothing, Drawing items, Coloring Books, Craft Kits

Girl age 10: Size 10 Clothing (Loves Cats & Yellow), Toy Cat/Kittens, Books about Cats

Boy age 8: Size 8 Clothing, Cars / Trucks, Dinosaurs, Board / Card Games

Boy age 6: Size 7 Clothing, Cars/Trucks, Dinosaur Toys, Books about dinosaurs/cars/trucks

Family #6

Adult Male: XL Jogger Pants, XL Hooded Sweatshirt, Athletic Socks, Cologne, Gas Gift Card, Grocery Gift Card

Adult Female: Athletic Socks, Medium Jogger Pants, M/L Tops, Perfume/Lotion/Body Wash, Grocery Gift Card, Gas Gift Cards

Girl age 18: Tall Athletic Socks, Short Athletic Socks, Large Crewneck Sweatshirt, Perfume/Lotion/Body Wash, Candle, OSCO



Let's find the
FOOD



Sibley Youth Food Find
2900lbs of food was collected!!
Thank you City of Sibley for
your generosity!!





December Celebrations

~~*Birthday's*~~

- 1 Marlys Dykstra
- 2 Trudy Dykstra
Brent Wassman
Michael Block Jr.
- 3 Jamiey Bevers
Witten Julius
- 4 Kaden Maxwell
- 6 Marcia Van Ruler
Reka Post
- 7 Alyssa Bruxvoort
- 8 Amelia Hoekstra
- 9 Laurel Klaassen
- 10 Davis Beyer
Brysen Alexander

- 13 Meggan Block
- 14 Gracie Odens
- 15 Ella Bruxvoort
- 16 Easton Beyer
- 17 Merlin Doorenbos
Brynna Loerts
- 19 Curt Van Kley
Sarah Loerts
- 20 JoAnn Calsbeek
Jodene Kruse

- 21 Mike Hustoft
Dave Stofferan
Alfreda Verdoorn
Sarah Lucas
- 22 Gert Gaalswyk
Melissa Hisek
- 29 Ryan Van Marel
- 31 Deb Hulstein



I have found
THE ONE
Whom my soul Loves
SONG OF SOLOMON 3:4

~~*Anniversaries*~~

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| 18 Mike and Andrea Block | 33 years |
| 19 Elesson and Kelsey Joseph | 10 years |



Random Musings Devotional

By Brenda Sandbulte

It's been a week, and last night I was at my breaking point, knowing I couldn't carry any more. I could lay it all out for you, and many of you would respond with "I'm praying for you" or send the praying hands emojis (please don't read any sarcasm here...I covet those prayers and emojis), but don't we all have those "weeks"?

But maybe this past week was a great week! A new grandbaby was born or you received an acceptance letter for college. Maybe this past week you celebrated a wedding anniversary, and you were reminded that you would choose your spouse all over again. Maybe this week you visited the zoo with your kids and saw a giraffe or hippo or elephant. You heard your children's laughter and saw God's creation - and life was so good. It was a week.

Or maybe this past week was one you'd like NOT to repeat. Maybe you lost your mother and despite knowing she's rejoicing in heaven with your dad and Jesus, it hurts. Maybe things didn't go well at work. Maybe the bills became overwhelming. Maybe there was an argument and it's still unresolved. Maybe this week you got some news you weren't quite ready for...news that changed the trajectory of your days. It was a week.

Last night, I went to bed heavy-hearted wondering about the events of this past week, when suddenly at 5:34 AM I woke up with an image of an Amazon box delivered to my front door. I rolled over intending to go back to sleep, but the image wasn't going away, so I crawled out of bed and tried to make sense of it.

I don't know if you know this but that's not a smile on the side of those boxes, it's an arrow - an arrow from A to Z, and according to Wikipedia, it means that this certain company delivers a wide-variety of things with a friendly smile.

So why God, at 5:34 am, when to be honest, I'm a little miffed with you right now, because if you haven't heard - IT'S BEEN A WEEK! - what am I supposed to understand?

That I never know what's going to show up in that A to Z box? I'm supposed to - because I ORDER what comes in those boxes, and believe me, I didn't order this past week! How do I send it back? Where's the return slip?

I would love to say that God spoke to me in that moment of anger and frustration. He didn't - He just let me yell (quietly, because after all, it's now 6:30 am).

Then He reminded me of my north star (go-to-in-all-things) verse - Psalm 86.

Hear me, Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

Guard my life, for I am faithful to you; save your servant who trusts in you.

You are my God; have mercy on me, Lord, for I call to you all day long.

Bring joy to your servant, Lord, for I put my trust in you.

The Psalm goes on to say, "Teach me your ways Oh Lord...for great is Your Love for me, and you have DELIVERED me from the depths..."

Do you believe in coincidences? I don't because last night my devotion had me read that exact verse, and I rolled my eyes and failed to listen to what he was delivering, because IT'S BEEN A WEEK - and I didn't want to hear it. So I went to sleep - essentially turning away from Him.

But God needed me to listen. So this morning, an image of a box on my doorstep. A reminder to sign for that package - to trust Him and as the last line of the Psalm reads, "for you Lord [will] help and comfort me."

Package received...but I think I'd still like to return what's inside.



Christmas Word Search Puzzle

Courtesy of Christmas-Projects.com



TYULETIDEMCHRISTMASLIGHTSPACBNG
 NSLIHAOAHVHSNBGESNOWFLAKEBDKHC
 CRHDVCGSCTIGNTOMOTATHREEWISEMEN
 STOYSYUHAOMEDHEWNUTCRAACKERVFJWG
 CNLBJCMEYSNCBORNAMENTSUZSWIYZIE
 JOLLYARRUDEHALGAKIGLYMOECRAEOCR
 ITYOJWADXNYEMISTLETOEOELSEHSLLEB
 NSCANDYCANESSCDFVGRYPNDOPDURNNSAR
 GOBPUACHRISTMASTREEMNGLSTREMNGE
 LCSCROOGEBLNDYCAITNAIAGTREASTYA
 ETGTWDMBVSEULSEVNHCCECSFEKRECNAD
 BSNHIAEEFUITVCJRKTSEILUCDNHOIRM
 EILJRHTMRHGS SHAEFEMASGEHOQUCOAIA
 LWKFUYZNERHCDISWBGRCGEVERNAKUKN
 LECAEPWVSAYVEQUJB TNALNNCSRSITAE
 SOOINREINDEERHSAOE CARAHOEMOEAPV
 NHTNYEVXRNTNSUMEIKUOMCUECHVSARI
 LMSOGSAETAESPODFAVMWSIHSI LESNIT
 CEDBUEUNATIVITYOFSOJACKFROSTUHS
 UOGBTNHCOEYKRMUTLNORTHPOLECFWRE
 PSWINTERSLTEISDYS PENSASWRUKRNAF
 IEFRESVOIWRSTZOMTCHLROUCLYMOIRC
 DKLT LULMEUEPRANCEROGARLANDASETA
 JOSTVYAEAOUIHBNITREICTOEBWITYRG
 NAPWEFRXDEL CMZEPALRANEZVOXTYNOJ
 CHRISTMASDINNERCDEFBLITZENDFIMK

Angels
 Candy Canes
 Chimney
 Comet
 Donner
 Frosty
 Ivy
 Joy
 Noel
 Prancer
 Santa Clause
 Snowflake
 Tinsel
 Yuletide

Bells
 Cards
 Christmas Dinner
 Cookies
 Elves
 Garland
 Jack Frost
 Manger
 North Pole
 Presents
 Scrooge
 Snowman
 Toys

Blitzen
 Carols
 Christmas Lights
 Cupid
 Family
 Gingerbread Man
 Jesus
 Merry
 Nutcracker
 Reindeer
 Season
 Spirit
 Vixen

Bow
 Cheer
 Christmas Tree
 Dancer
 Festive
 Holidays
 Jingle Bells
 Mistletoe
 Ornaments
 Ribbon
 Sled
 Stockings
 Winter

Candles
 Chestnuts
 Church
 Dasher
 Fireplace
 Holly
 Jolly
 Nativity
 Peace
 Rudolph
 Sleigh
 Three Wise Men
 Wreath

Sportsmen's Devotional

Today's Photograph

**No Mere Human Can Ever Do Enough Or Practice
Enough To Hit That Mark**



Bible Study Verse

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
(NIV)

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NIV)

Thoughts

Practice! Practice! Practice! Practice makes perfect. Or more accurately said, "Proper practice makes perfect." If we practice with the wrong equipment or with the wrong mechanics, then our practice will only decrease our proficiency.

Archery is a fast growing sport and is being embraced by more and more hunters. Additional skills and disciplines are required of the archery hunter. Two are:

- To wait on the proper shot that will ensure a humane kill.
- To practice before the season so you are ready, confident, and proficient when the shot presents.

Action Point

Archery gives us a perfect picture to understand sin. Sin is missing God's bulls eye of holiness. God's bulls eye is absolute holiness, complete perfection. No mere human can ever do enough or practice enough to hit that mark.

But there is a Champion who has hit that mark. His name is Jesus. He completed every requirement that God had established. He fulfilled the whole law of God, hitting the mark dead center! He did it perfectly. He died on the Cross to pay the sin penalty of death for all humans.

That payment is available to all who will by faith receive Him and His work for their own sin. His resurrection proves that God accepted His work upon the cross. He paid the price so every person might be saved or forgiven of their sin. Have you by faith accepted this gift of forgiveness and eternal life? If not, right now put your faith in Jesus Christ. Believe and be saved!

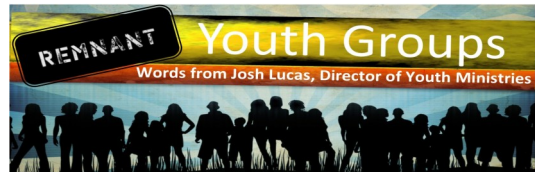
Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

Make sure your bow is sighted in properly. Carrying it in a hard shell case can protect the sights. After travel, it is always advised to confirm the accuracy of your bow before hunting. Trips in vehicles, poor handlers, and bumps in the road can knock the best sight out of adjustment.

Trivia Time Answers:

1. Naboth
2. Rehoboam
3. Adonijah
4. 6 feet
5. Hiram King of Tyre
6. Obadiah
7. Micaiah
8. Jehoshaphat
9. About 11,000 pounds

What is the chief end of man? The answer is simple, to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. Humanity, even if they do not believe in God, glorify Him. How is this possible? How is it possible that fallen sinful human beings can bring glory to the perfect and Holy Savior? One name, Jesus Christ. When we celebrate the holiday season, we tend to think that, "Oh yes, we celebrate Jesus for what He did for us and being born." However, the reason why we celebrate is so much deeper than that. Let's look at a couple of passages of Scripture and hopefully this will reveal to us why we celebrate Jesus on Christmas.



Luke 2:8-11, the most famous Christmas passage, the Shepherds in their field and an angel comes to them and they become so afraid. Why were they afraid? Because it is good for us to have a healthy respectful fear of the Lord and the heavenly realm. He is all powerful and almighty and therefore deserves to be respected and not mocked or anything of that sort. The angel reassures them, "Fear not, for I bring you good news of great joy." What they are about to be told is something that will bring them joy, God knows us better than we know ourselves. This is why we trust in Him with our lives, children, and our future. The angel explains that the Savior, Christ the Lord, has been born in Bethlehem. For hundreds of years, they have heard and have prayed for the Savior to come to the world, to save His people, just as the prophets of old talked about so long ago. For hundreds of years their ancestors and themselves have prayed, and it seemed that their prayers were not answered, but in hindsight they were. The time has now come, the Savior is now born, and the people can now celebrate because the Savior has been born. Galatians 4:4-5, "But when the set time had fully come, God sent his son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship."

There is something that we need to understand about Jesus, He is truly human, but He is also truly God. This is called, Trinitarian Theology, meaning that God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit, all are a part of the Trinity. They have existed before time began and will exist forever (Colossians 1:16; John 1:1; Matthew 28:19). If we think about this for a minute, Jesus has always existed with God because He is God, which means that He was in heaven with the Father and the Holy Spirit, and yet He left that glory to come down to earth to live. Why would He do that?

It is because He came to save. Jesus came down from heaven to redeem His people from the most horrible disease of all, sin. Jesus brought glory from heaven down to earth so that we could experience it now and live in it now, and if we are experiencing it now, how much more glorious is it going to be in heaven? For reference on this please see, Luke 17:20-21; Mark 1:15; Acts 28:31.

What does all of this have to do with Christmas? I would like to finish with a quote from Charles Spurgeon about Christmas, "May God give you peace with yourselves; may he give you good will towards all your friends, your enemies, and your neighbors; and may he give you grace to give glory to God in the highest."

Blessings,
Josh

Dad jokes with Josh:

**Joanna asked me, "Dad, make me soup."
I said, "Ok, but I don't think you'll fit in the pot."**



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you know is in need,
please contact
Josh Lucas***