



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



**Operation
Christmas
Child**

Way To Go First Reformed!!

Thanks to your generosity,
we were able to pack

124 shoeboxes this year!!

Thank you for making 124 children's
Christmases extra special!



December at a Glance

- 1: Secretary's Office Closed
- 4: **10:10 am Discernment Meeting**
- 7: **6:30pm Discernment Meeting**
- 11: **5:00pm Children's Christmas Program**
- 12: **11:00 am Faith Bible Study Christmas Party at Heartwood Heights**
 - **6:00 pm** Elder & Deacon Meetings (New 2022 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
- 18: Sharing Christmas Family gifts are due at the church
- 19: **2:00 pm** Patience Bible Study Christmas Goodie Gathering
- 24: **6:00pm** Christmas Eve Service
- 25: **9:00am Christmas Morning Worship**
- 26- Jan 1: Pastor Troy on Vacation
- 28: No Bible Classes/Youth Group/Choir

*Sundays:

- **9:00 am** Praise and Worship Service
- **10:10 am** Sunday School 4yrs - Adult Coffee Fellowship Time

*Tuesdays:

- **8:30 am** Quilting Chicks will meet

*Wednesday Evening Bible Classes and Youth Groups:

- **6:30 pm** Bible Classes 1st-5th grades
- **6:30 pm** MS Remnant Youth Group
- **7:30 pm** HS Remnant Youth Group

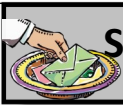
CONTACT INFORMATION:

712-754-2783

sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com



View our Website at: sibleyfrc.org



Stewardship & Giving

Offering Summary through November 23:

- **General Fund: \$288,965.88**
Budget: \$315,827.88; 91.5% of budget
- **Benevolent Fund: \$35,553.37**
Budget: \$70,626.12; 50% of budget
- **Building Fund offerings to date: \$1435**

Faith In Action for December: Sharing Christmas Families



Gifts need to be brought to Church by:

December 18

Special Offering for December



Christmas Pixel Picture

COLOR BY NUMBER

1 WHITE 3 GREEN 5 BLUE
2 BLACK 4 RED 6 ORANGE

5	5	5	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	5	5	5
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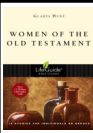
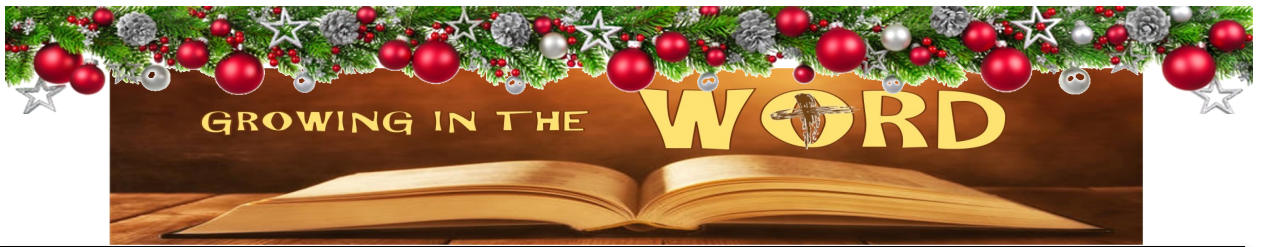


Consistory Meeting

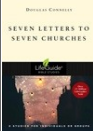
Highlights

November 14, 2022

- **MMSA** to allow the remnant youth to do the pay it forward night on November 30.
- **Pastor Troy** is going to have his next round of discernment meetings on December 4 and December 7
- **MMSA** to approve the baptism of Austyn Marie daughter of AJ and Jenny Weg on December 11.
- **MMSA** to approve Cody and Kristen Hurlburt using the fellowship Hall and kitchen on December 4, 2022.
- **MMSA** to allow Troy Van Beek to take vacation the week after Christmas (26th-1st)
- **Approved** to change "Communication Director" title to "Administrative Secretary"
- **Decided** offering plates will remain in rear of sanctuary instead of passing the plates.



Faith Bible Study, will meet on **Monday, December 19 at 11:00am** at Heartwood Heights for their Bible Study Christmas Party .



Patience Bible Study, will meet on **Monday, December 12 at 2:00pm** here at church for their Christmas Goodie Gathering.

Fellowship Bible Study Opportunities at 6:30pm:

1. **Message Discussion and Application** *Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar's home & *FRC Fellowship Hall
2. **Digging into God's Word: Ecclesiastes** *Kevin and Laurel Klaassen's home All ages, singles and couples are invited to attend.

Childcare can be arranged. Come, join a group and let's grow together!

Trivia Time!!

1. What baby was born to a relative of Mary's about six months before the birth of Jesus?
2. What Old Testament prophet predicted the miraculous virgin birth of Christ?
3. Which two of the four Gospels make no mention of the birth of Christ?
4. Which Christmas carol has been voted the most popular one of all?
5. What is the meaning of the name "Jesus"?
6. Where does the Bible tell us that Jesus was born on December 25th?
7. What carol began in the ancient church as one single word? And what was that word?
8. Was the Lord Jesus born in a stable?
9. When hosts of angels appear to them, announcing Jesus' birth, a carol says the "shepherds quake at the sight." In what carol is the quoted line found?
10. One of our carols begins, "angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains." What did the angels sing at Jesus' birth?
11. Since there were likely other babies in Bethlehem at the time what sign did the angel give the shepherds that would enable them to identify the baby Jesus?
12. What carol contains the line, "Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing"?



Sharing Jesus

Have you ever been met with suspicion when you tried to share the Good News of Jesus with someone? I have. I've found that it is often because another Christian has tried to share Jesus in a way that does not mesh with the Good News of Jesus. Christianity is not about following the correct set of rules. There is only one criterion for being a Christian. Do you want to know what it is? **It's a rock solid faith in the truth that Jesus really is the Son of God and he really did pay the price for all of creation to be reconciled to the Creator.** That's it. No amount of doing makes you a Christian, only the knowledge that Jesus is Savior and Lord. First's mission statement claims that we Glorify when we live a life fully surrendered to Jesus the Christ

The Good news of Jesus Christ that we try to communicate as followers of Jesus rarely gets through because what outsiders often hear is "My worldview is better than your worldview, so let me tell you why I'm right and you are wrong." Listen to the way *The Message* translates Paul's letter to the church in Colossae:

Use your heads as you live and work among outsiders. Don't miss a trick. Make the most of every opportunity. Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out.

Colossians 4:5-6

In many cases instead of opening their hearts to Jesus, well intended Christians merely perpetuate an "us versus them" mentality. Take some time this week to meditate on Colossians 4:5-6. Try to relate with people who have yet to meet Jesus. Use every opportunity that God opens to you.

Prayer: God open my eyes to the way I may be hindering others as they search for Jesus in a lost and broken world. Make me present to opportunities for spiritual conversations with others in my daily life. Amen.



December Celebrations

~~Birthday's~~

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Marlys Dykstra | 15 Marlys Pietz | 21 Mike Hustoft |
| 2 Trudy Dykstra | Ella Bruxvoort | Dave Stofferan |
| Brent Wassman | 16 Easton Beyer | Alfreda Verdoorn |
| Michael Block Jr. | 17 Merlin Doorenbos | Tom Dagel |
| 3 Jamiey Bevers | Chrissy Ackerman | 22 Gert Gaalswyk |
| Witten Julius | Brynna Loerts | Michelle Saul |
| 4 Kaden Maxwell | 19 Curt Van Kley | Melissa Hisek |
| 6 Marcia Van Ruler | Sarah Loerts | 24 Glenn Doorenbos |
| Reka Post | 20 JoAnn Calsbeek | 29 Ryan Van Marel |
| 8 Amelia Hoekstra | Kay Jansen | 31 Deb Hulstein |
| 9 Laurel Klaassen | Jodene Kruse | |
| 10 Davis Beyer | | |
| Brysen Alexander | | |
| 11 Clint Henrichs | | |
| Zoe Ackerman | | |
| 12 Ruth Dagel | | |
| 13 Meggan Block | | |
| 14 Gracie Odens | | |



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

~~Anniversaries~~

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| 15 Tom and Ruth Dagel | 38 years |
| 18 Mike and Andrea Block | 30 years |
| 19 Elesson and Kelsey Joseph | 7 years |

Praise and Worship Greeters

- 4: E: Dean and Amy Van Marel
C: Harvey and Marcia Van Ruler
W: Bryan Verdoorn
- 11: E: Joel and Kathy Verdoorn
C: Roger Verdoorn
W: Jim and Jena Ver Steeg/family
- 18: E: Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar
C: Brent and Brenda Wassman
W: AJ and Jenny Weg/family
- 24: ***Christmas Eve Service (6:00pm)***
E: Lawrence and Ruth Wiersma
C: Ryan Wiersma
W: Kody and Rachel Wills/family
- 25: E: Gary and Jessa Wolter
C: Renae Wolter
W: Chris and Tiffany Wynia/family



9:00am Worship Nursery

- 4: Teresa Hurlburt & Chelsea Hulstein
11: Sarah and Brynna Loerts
18: Abby DeZeeuw and Chelsey Alexander
25: Anne and Kaylee Maxwell

Fellowship Coffee Servers



- 4: Dwayne and Janice Heikes
11: Chris and Teresa Hurlburt
18: Greg and Deb Kusters
25: Ken and Wilma Loerts

Children & Worship during the service



- 4: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper:
- 11: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper:
- 18: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper:
- 25: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper:

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

Library Volunteers



- 4: Phyllis Vander Linden
11: Pauline Van Engen
18: Leanne Van Kley
25: Marcia Van Ruler

Sportsmen's Devotional

Bible Study Verse

Psalms 91: 5

Fear nothing-not wild wolves in the night, not flying arrows in the day. (Message)

Thoughts

My dad use to tell us kids the story when he tried to ride his bicycle to Uncle Dick's farm way up in the north woods of Minnesota. It was further than he had expected and it was getting dark when the wolves started to howl on his left, then on his right. He peddled faster and the howling got closer. His legs were like rubber from fatigue, but he was sure the wolves were trying to cut him off from reaching the safety of the old farm house.

He would of course only tell the story at night around the campfire and as kids it would provoke great fear and suspense. We could feel the fire in his lungs and legs.

As the old farm house came into view, the wolves were starting to come out on the old logging road, closing in. He was standing up peddling now, praying someone would be home to meet him at the door with a really, really big gun.

Action Point

I love that the Bible relates directly to me personally and that within every story there is a promise to me personally. "Fear Nothing, not even wild wolves in the night."

God has my back, my future and promises to rescue, shield, protect, fend off, be my shield, be my refuge and be my fortress. As light takes the fear out of darkness, God takes the fear out of life.

It's a choice to let our minds conjure up all kinds of fears or take the promises of God and believe them personally.

Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

When in bear country I always know exactly where my flashlight and bear maze is when turning out the lights. One is in one boot and the other in the other boot, right by my sleeping bag for quick easy access in a moment's notice. I never lose any sleep.



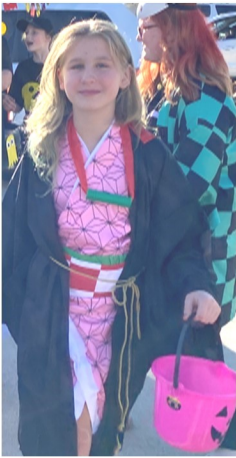
Trivia Time Answers!!!

1. John the Baptist 2. Isaiah 3. Mark and John 4. Silent Night 5. The Lord is Salvation 6. It doesn't
7. O Come, O Come Emmanuel, the word was "O" 8. Not necessarily 9. We don't know for sure 10.
Silent Night 11. He was "wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" 12. O Come, All Ye Faithful".



TRUNK OR TREAT!







PRAY FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

1. Jim and Jena Ver Steeg; Aiden, Logan

2. Faye Vos

3. Pray for our College Students

4. Pray for our Church

5. Caleb and Natasha Wagenaar

6. Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar

7. Colby Wagenaar

8. Josh and Brittany Wagenaar

9. Justin Wagenaar

10. Pray for our College Students

11. Pray for our Church

12. Brent and Brenda Wassman; Alyssa, Austin

13. AJ and Jenny Weg; Addison, Alivia, Austyn

14. Michael Wielenga; Haiden, Berkley

15. Lawrence and Ruth Wiersma
16. Ryan Wiersma

17. Pray for our College Students

18. Pray for our Church

19. Kody and Rachel Wills; Kenzie, Jada, Brody

20. Geneva Wissink

21. Gary and Jessa Wolter

22. Renae Wolter

23. Chris and Tiffany Wynia; Codie, Mackenzie

24. Pray for our College Students

25. Pray for our Church

26. Elizabeth Wynia

27. Charlie and Brenda Ackerman; Leah, Marissa

28. Derek and Megan Ackerman; Quinnley

29. Lars Ackerman

30. Mitch and Angie Ackerman

31. Terry and Chrissy Ackerman; Zoey, Jaeger

College Students:

Mackenzie Beyer
Logan Bruxvoort
Kaden Maxwell
Teddy Van Gelder

Carter Brouwer
Andrea Leusink
Austin Wassman
Tyler Feldkamp

Dalten Bremer
Ashilyn Hulstein
Natalie Klaassen

Leah Ackerman
Grant Brouwer
Tanner Dykstra
Jaeger Johnson
Alex Mc Dougall

Ryan Van Marel

BE A
Prayer
WARRIOR

Grace Covenant Ministries

PRAYER JOURNAL

Adopt a Family

FOR CHRISTMAS

Our Church has once again adopted 4 larger families for the Christmas Season. Families are posted in the Fellowship Hall. Please take a moment to check which items you would be willing to provide for these families in need. All items will need to be wrapped, tagged with Family number and recipient (ex. Child age 1) and dropped off at church **no later than December 18th.** Thank you in advance for your generosity! Lets make these families' Christmas celebrations just a little extra special this year.

Family #23

Adult Male: Fishing Equipment,
Work Boots (9W), Gift Cards

Adult Female: Candles, Bodywash/Lotion,
Size Large Sweatpants,
Gas Cards/Grocery Cards

Adult Female: Socks, Candles, Gift Cards

Girl age 18: Body Spray/Lotion, Fake Nails,
Finger Nail Polish

Boy age 15: Size Medium Sweatpants,
Fishing Equipment, Size 11 shoes, Cologne

Girl age 11: Socks, Blankets,
Animal Shaped Pillows, Craft Kits

Family #25

Adult Male: 2XL Sweatshirt,
Size 18 shoes, Gas Cards/Grocery Cards

Adult Female: 2XL Sweatshirt,
Size 11 shoes, Body Spray/Lotion,
Gas Cards/Grocery Cards

Girl age 8: Ponies, Dolls, Barbies

Girl age 7: Hello Kitty items,
Baby Dolls, Dream House

Boy age 5: Cars, Dinosaurs,
Lightening McQueen items, Football

Boy age 3: Cars, Baby Shark items,
Dinosaurs, Duplo Blocks

Family #29

Adult Male: 3XL Sweatshirt,
Gas Card, Grocery Card

Adult Female: 2XL Sweatshirt,
Gas Card, Grocery Card

Girl age 16: 3XL Clothing, Makeup,
Body Spray/Lotion, Mystery Books

Girl age 10: Size 10/12 Winter Coat,
Books,

Board Games, Body Spray/Lotion

Girl age 9: Size 10/12 Winter Coat,
Size 10/12 warm tops, Puzzles,
Body Spray/Lotion

Family #42

Adult Female: 3XL Dallas Cowboys
Sweatshirt, Bath and Body items,
Grocery Card, Gas Card

Boy age 17: XL Dallas Cowboys Sweatshirt
Cologne, XL polo shirts/Long Sleeved
Shirts, Gift Cards

Girl age 16: XL Seattle Seahawks Sweat-
shirt, Journals, Lotions/Body Sprays
(Bath & Body), Gift Cards

Girl age 13: Small Adult Sweatshirt,
Art Supplies, Craft Kits, Gift Cards

A Fun Family Alternative to Traditional Advent Calendars.

Advent Hygiene Item Collection Calendar

This year we are teaming up with the Sibley-Ocheyedan schools to help provide hygiene items to students in need. We encourage you this Christmas to read each day's devotion and collect the hygiene item for that day. By the time you get to Christmas you will have a full box of items to donate to our students. Thanks for participating!!

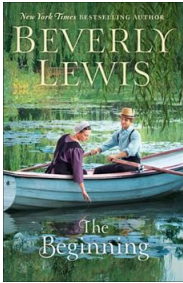


Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
27	Comb	28	Brush	29	Toothbrush	30	Toothpaste	1	Body Wash	2	Towel	3	Wash Cloth
<i>Matt. 2:1</i>		<i>Luke 2:4</i>		<i>Psalms 100: 1-2</i>		<i>John 3:16</i>		<i>Luke 1:26-33</i>		<i>Isa 7:14 & Matt. 1:23</i>		<i>Matt. 1:18-21</i>	
What are Magi?		Where did Joseph & Mary go to be registered?		What is your favorite Christmas Carol?		Why did Jesus come to earth?		Who told Mary that she would have a baby?		How did Isaiah know what would happen? Why is it important that he did?		Why did Mary & Joseph name the baby Jesus?	
4	Liquid Hand Soap	5	Tampons	6	Ladies' Deodorant	7	Shampoo	8	Conditioner	9	Boys Underwear	10	Feminine Pads
<i>Luke 1:36</i>		<i>Luke 2:1-6</i>		<i>Micah 5:2</i>		<i>Luke 2:7</i>		<i>Matt. 2:13-15</i>		<i>Isa. 1:18 & Rev. 3:5</i>		<i>John 1:1-5</i>	
How were Mary & Elizabeth related? Who is older, John the Baptist or Jesus?		Why did Mary & Joseph go to Bethlehem?		What does this verse foretell about Bethlehem?		Why did Mary lay baby Jesus in a manger?		Why did Joseph take Mary & Jesus to Egypt?		What does snow have to do with the real meaning of Christmas?		Why do you think we decorate with lights at Christmas?	
11	Facial Wipes	12	Cosmetic Bag	13	Body Spray	14	Body Lotion	15	Men's Deodorant	16	Disp. Razor	17	Girls Underwear
<i>John 8:12</i>		<i>Isaiah 9:6</i>		<i>Isaiah 61:1-3</i>		<i>Psalms 95:1-5</i>		<i>Luke 2</i>		<i>Luke 2:3-11</i>		<i>Luke 2:13-14</i>	
Christ is the light of the world. What do Christmas candles and lights remind us of?		What are some of the names of Christ?		Bows "bind up the broken hearted". How can we serve Jesus this Christmas?		What is God doing? How should we show thankfulness?		What is your favorite part of the Christmas Story?		How do Candy Canes remind us of our Savior who is the "Good Shepherd".		Who joined the angel in praising God?	
18	Feminine Pads	19	Ladies Deodorant	20	Body Wash	21	Men's Deodorant	22	Tampons	23	Liquid Hand Soap	24	Gym Socks
<i>Luke 2:15-17</i>		<i>Psalms 66:1-2</i>		<i>Matt. 2:1-2</i>		<i>Matt 2:7-10</i>		<i>Matt 2:11</i>		<i>Matt 2:11 & 25:40</i>		<i>Matt. 1:21/Jn 2:1-5</i>	
Where did the shepherds go after the angels left?		Why do we ring Christmas bells?		How did the Wise Men know that Jesus had been born?		Where did Herod send the Wise Men?		How did the Wise Men show that they knew the young child was the Savior?		Why do we give each other gifts at Christmas?		Why did the Angel tell Mary and Joseph to name their baby, Jesus?	
<div> <div>25 Your Box is full!</div> <div>Job 19:25</div> <div>Merry Christmas and give thanks for His Goodness!!</div> </div>													

From the library--

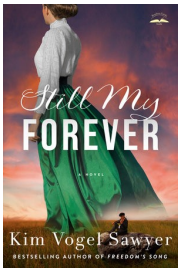


There is a new Christmas book for children in the library: **SANTA'S PRAYER** written by Tom Roberts who lives in Sioux Falls, S.D. It is about a brother and sister who were out walking and found themselves at church. They go in and find Santa there kneeling in the hay before the manger in which the Baby Jesus lay. What follows is a very meaningful prayer by Santa talking about what Christmas is all about.



In the adult section there is a new fiction book by a favorite Amish author, Beverly Lewis, **THE BEGINNING**. "Susie Mast's Amish life in Lancaster County has been shaped by events beyond her control with the tragic deaths of her Dat and close-in-age brother casting long shadows. Now twenty-two Susie remains unmarried despite her longtime affection for friend Obie Yoder. Unfortunately, her concerns are soon multiplied due to her mother's worsening health and her younger sister's urgent desire for answers about her adoption. Once again, Susie faces the possibility of loss.

Will long-held family secrets and missed opportunities dim Susie's hopes for the future? Or is what seems like the end only the beginning?"



Kim Vogel Sawyer is the author of another new book **STILL MY FOREVER**. "Four years after leaving town to make a name for himself as a composer, Gilbert Baty has returned temporarily to Falke, Kansas. Now, he's trying to keep everyone from learning the truth about his disastrous years in New York City. He hopes to start writing music again in Falke, but he can't help being distracted by Ava Flaming, the brown-eyed baker to whom he was briefly engaged before he ended things-and who still stirs feeling in him he know he has no right to pursue. Ava had thought she was past the loss

of Gil Baty, but to her dismay, she's as drawn to him as ever. The situation only gets worse when Gil establishes a youth band in Falke, showing once more what a good man he is. But when the band has a chance to compete in a statewide competition Ava faces the prospect of heartbreak again. Could music take Gil away forever this time? Or might God be stirring in Ava's and Gil's hearts a new song that will draw them together for good?"

Visit the library soon, there are so many good books just waiting to be read.

Jeannette Juffer



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

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

Angel	Jingle
Bells	Jolly
Carolers	Lights
Celebrate	Mistletoe
Chesnuts	Noel
Christmas	Nutcracker
Decorations	Ornaments
Eggnog	Poinsettia
Festive	Presents
Fruitcake	Snowflakes
Garland	Snowman
Gingerbread	Tinsel
Holiday	Tree
Holly	Yuletide



Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
December 24 at 6:00 PM
All Are Welcome

A background image for a candlelight service featuring several lit red candles, a gold star, and holly leaves on a dark wooden surface.



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:

- Dec 25 & Jan 1: No Class due to Christmas Break

Wednesday Bible Classes (1st-5th grades):

- Dec 28 & Jan 4: No Class due to Christmas Break

MS and HS Remnant Youth Group:

- Dec 28 & Jan 4: No Youth Group due to Christmas Break

College Addresses

Hudson Feldkamp

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Ryan Van Marel

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Kaden Maxwell

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Logan Bruxvoort

230 10th Ave.
Worthington, MN 56187

MacKenzie Beyer

610 W. 4th Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588

If your student will have a different address for the 2022-2023 school year please let the office know.

Hello First Reformed Church,

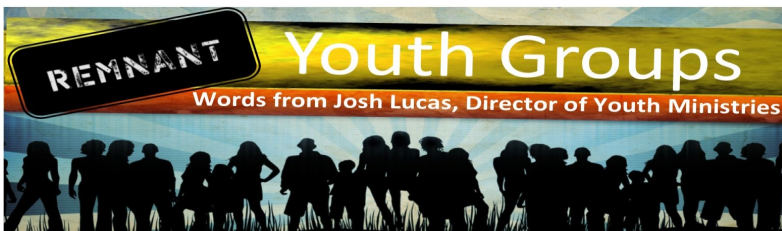
"It's the most wonderful time of the year!" Seeing the snow hit the ground really reminds me that we are in the most wonderful time of the year. We have Thanksgiving that is approaching very quickly, and of course than we have Christmas.

What is your favorite Winter tradition? Is it decorating the Christmas tree, putting up Christmas lights, setting out the Thanksgiving/Fall décor, or is it snowball fights in the front yard? I am going to go ahead and say it's probably the last one. Regardless of who we are or where we come from, we all have different traditions that we like to do this time of the year. One of the traditions that I love to do with my family is to watch, "It's a Wonderful Life." We watch that at least once a month and especially during Christmas time. If you have not seen It's a Wonderful Life, you need to. It is the classic tale about George Bailey, the richest man in town, who is shown what life would be like if he was not alive when he contemplates suicide. It sounds very dark and sad, but it is labeled as one of the most inspirational and heartwarming movies ever made. It really is an amazing movie. I like to watch this movie because of its rich history and because of its amazing message. No matter how bad things might seem you must never give up your faith or your family. Another great tradition we do is we read the accounts leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ in our home. When I mean we read the accounts leading up to it, I mean we read the history of why Jesus had to come, essentially all of the main highlights of the Old Testament. Why do we do that? Especially since Jesus was not actually born on Christmas day. Isn't that dangerous to teach your children about an event on the wrong day? The answer is NO. It is not wrong for us to celebrate and recognize the birth of Jesus during Christmas time. It is a time of remembrance and celebration about what Jesus did and what He accomplished.

Unfortunately, we as Christians over the years have allowed the culture and the Pagan religion to hijack our holidays and have tried to turn us away from them. Essentially trying to erase the history of Christianity. Christmas is a Christian holiday and needs to be continued as such. Put up your Christmas tree, put up Christmas lights, set up the manger, put up ornaments, jam out to Christmas music, send cards, drink eggnog, go shopping, have snowball fights, whatever it is that you do or don't do, do it. Celebrate the holidays with your families. With that also comes a warning. Just like everything else we need to be careful that we are not losing our focus. Is the focus on Jesus and your family? We have to be sure that we do not end up worshipping the holiday, we need to worship the reason for the holiday, Jesus. I will do a part two article where I talk specifically about Christmas, and why it is a Christian holiday. As well as how you can answer your friends who try to say that it is not.

Things in youth group are going very well right now. We are entering into our slow time of the year because we can no longer be outside. We are hoping to be able to do more indoor activities. Just so you are aware, we are planning to be doing our lock-ins again this upcoming winter so please be on the lookout for those. If you are also willing to be a chaperone for special events like Lock-ins, outings, mission trips, please let me know so I can have you on my list. Thank you so much for taking the time to read my article and as always if you ever need a hug this big ole teddy bear has got one for you!

Blessings,
Josh Lucas



Dad Jokes With Josh:
Thanks for explaining the word "many" to me.....it means a lot.



Update from Adrian and Bernardeth Bobb-Kelly November 2022

Dear friends,

For the past fifteen years, Tabitha's house has served as a home to more than thirty kids and young ladies. Most of these children were brought to us by the child protective service institution here in Bluefields. They would bring these children to Tabitha's House and we would take care of and provide for them until their case was solved. At times it would be just for a few weeks, but in other cases, it would be for up to five years. Many times they would not be attending school. In these cases, we would seek for them the appropriate school fit plus buy their books, pencils, and other needs, and have them go to school. Sometimes they would be nine years old or even older and hadn't gone to school yet. In these cases, we would seek schools with programs where they could get to study two grades in a year. We have also received kids who were at the age of kindergarten so they would get to enjoy going to school at an early age. Some got to finish their high school studies and went further. We want to tell you the story of one of those students: Shayann Martinez

Shayann's Little Story

Shayann was one of the kindergarten children who was left by her mother to the care of some relatives as she migrated to Panama. The mother promised she would be away just for a year or two. Shortly after she had gone, perhaps two months later, her relatives handed Shayann over to child protective service. One day, they brought the child to us, asking if we would be willing to take care of her until they contacted her dad who was not living in Bluefield. We saw the need and willingly accepted to help the child. Shayann finished her kindergarten year and went on to first grade. When she had finished her first grade, her dad came from Corn Island to Bluefields to ask for Shayann. They gave her to him. She was happy to see her dad and also to be reunited with her siblings.



Shortly after she had gone to Corn Island with her dad, I received a call from a lady who was a representative of the child protective service in Corn Island. She told me she was calling me to tell me that Shayann was not going to school and she was not treated well because her dad had taken her to a stepmother where she was physically and psychologically abused. Knowing this situation, we agreed to have her in Bluefields if her father agreed. Eventually, her daddy accepted to send her to us. That is how Shayann came back to Tabitha's House and got started in second grade. It was not an easy road for her because she had no contact with her mother until she turned 15. That is when her mother came with the promise to take her to Panama. We were not able to do anything about her mother's plan; it was totally out of our control, so she went. Then it happened that her mother called and told us that Shayann wants to continue at the home and she would not go to Panama again. Consequently, Shayann came back to Tabitha's House and continued with her studies, finishing high school in 2020 at the Colegio Cristiano El Verbo.

In 2021, Shayann requested admission at the Bluefields Indian and Caribbean University for a technical career.

Thanks be to God, in February she was notified that she was admitted to study Surgical Technician and Nurses' Aid. This was an intensive career of fourteen months. Shayann received her certification as a Surgical Technician and Nurses Aid this year. At present, she is working in the Regional Hospital in Bluefields and enjoying what she does.



Remnant Food Find



Food Find Facts!

765 - Canned Food Items 208 - Boxed Food Items 83 - Breakfast Items
44 - Thanksgiving Items 104 - Miscellaneous Items
1,204 Total Items Collected 1,000 approx. lbs. of food!!



Remnant Spaghetti Supper



More photos can be found on the church website under the tab "Youth"

Thank you for your donations!!