

The Newsletter

March 2023

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

Nothing you have
is because of
luck or chance.
It's all due
to God's grace
and favor.



HappyHealthyandProsperous.com

March at a Glance

- 1: 6:30 am Men's Lenten Breakfast at Sibley Christian Reformed Church
- 3: 2:00 pm World Day of Prayer @ CRC
2:15 pm BINGO at Country View Manor
- 5: Communion Sunday
- 8: 5-7:30pm Remnant Tip Night at Pizza Ranch
- 9: Secretary's Office Closed - Bulletins will be printed Mar. 8 in the afternoon
- 10: 2:15 pm BINGO at Country View Manor
- 13: 6:00pm Elder & Deacon Meetings
7:00pm Full Consistory will meet
- 14: Classis Meeting in Orange City
- 15: 6:30 am Men's Lenten Breakfast here at First Reformed Church
- 17: 2:15 pm BINGO at Country View Manor
- 20: 9:30 am Faith Bible Study
 - 3:00 pm Patience Bible Study
- 24: 2:15 pm BINGO at Country View Manor
- 29: 6:30 am Men's Lenten Breakfast at Sibley United Methodist Church

*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
- 7:30 pm Joyful Voices Choir

CONTACT INFORMATION:
712-754-2783

sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com
www.sibleyfrc.org





Stewardship & Giving

Offering Summary through February 25:

- **General Fund: \$ 45,999.05**
Budget: \$340,984.97; 13% of budget
- **Benevolent Fund: \$3961.09**
Budget: \$70,205.23; 5% of budget
- **Building Fund offerings to date: \$110**

Special Offering for March



Faith In Action for March

Nursing Home Items

This month, we are encouraging everyone - children through 90 year olds - to bring at least one item for the residents of our two local nursing homes. Sibley Rehab needs items for bingo prizes: Little Debbie or other individually wrapped snacks and candy bars. Country View needs items for their general store: jewelry, small knick-knacks, shaving cream, shampoo, lotion, toothpaste & brushes, hard candies, etc.



Meeting Minutes

Consistory Meeting Highlights February 13, 2023

- MMSA to only serve gluten free bread during communion
- MMSA to allow the HS Remnant to use the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary for the Agape meal and movie on Saturday, April 22, 2023.
- MMSA to allow Dar Jurgens use of the Fireside Room on 11/6/2023 and 2/5/2024 from 6-8:30pm.
- MMSA to change Article 2, Section 2, Pt2 of the FRC By-Law to read "The business of the church shall be conducted by the consistory which shall consist of the Pastor, elders, and Deacons, the number of which may be increased or decreased from time to time as necessary, upon recommendation by consistory."
- MMSA to reduce the size of Consistory from 16 to 12 over the next 3 years.
- MMSA to allow the Willing Hands Chair Committee to make future policy changes as they see necessary.
- New Funeral Lunch Guideline sheets will be given to group leaders.



BLISS BIBLE
WOMEN OF THE
OLD TESTAMENT



Faith Bible Study, will meet on **Monday, March 20 at 9:30 am**. We will be studying chapter #10 “Esther pt1” in our book *Women of the Old Testament*. Scripture will be Esther 2-4. Jan Henrichs will be leader and Jeannette Juffer will serve as hostess. All are invited! Hope to see you there!

BLISS BIBLE
SEVEN LETTERS TO
SEVEN CHURCHES



Patience Bible Study, will meet on **Monday, March 20 at 3:00 pm**. We will be studying lesson #5 “Finding a Moral Compass,” in our book *Seven Letters to Seven Churches*. Scripture for the lesson is Revelation 2:18-29. Barb will lead. Come for a time of fellowship and learning. Hope to see you there!

Fellowship Bible Study Opportunities on Sundays at 6:30pm:

1. **Message Discussion and Application** *Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar’s home & *FRC Fellowship Hall
2. **Digging into God’s Word: Revelation** *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 is the shortest verse in the Old testament?
2. Who were the people called the Zamzummims”?
3. The first archer mentioned in the Bible was?
4. There are four different colored horses mentioned in the book of Revelation. What were the four different colors?
5. What Bible character called himself “a dead dog”?
6. What evangelist had four daughters who prophesied?
7. What is the longest word in the Bible?
8. What king slept in a bed that was four cubits (six feet) wide and nine cubits (thirteen feet) long?
9. In the book of Revelation a star called ____ fell when the third angel sounded his trumpet?
10. What little-boy king had to be hidden in a bedroom for six years to escape the wrath of his wicked grandmother?
11. The giant Goliath lived in what city?

Praise and Worship Greeters

- 5: E: Harold and Mim Ernst
C: Paul Feldkamp
W: Josh and Hannah Lucas/family
- 12: E: Robert and Janice Groen
C: Lennis and Marvella Harberts/family
W: Ed and Jan Harskamp
- 19: E: Bill and LaDonn Hartzell
C: Dwayne and Janice Heikes
W: Dan and Maureen Heilman/family
- 26: E: Burt and Jan Henrichs
C: Derek and Ashley Heronimus/family
W: Ken and Sandy Heronimus



Worship Service Nursery

- 5: Megan Travaille & Heidi Sayler
12: Ashley Heronimus & Jenny Weg
19: Teresa Hurlburt & Chelsey Hulstein
26: Sarah and Brynna Loerts

Fellowship Coffee Servers



- 5: Lawrence & Ruth Wiersma
12: Andrea & Michael Block
19: Nate & Angela Buysman
26: Glenn & Paul Doorenbos

Children & Worship during the service



- 5: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper:
- 12: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper:
- 19: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper:
- 26: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper:

Willing Hands Group



Willing Hands Group #3

will be responsible for services during the month.

Co-chairpersons are:

- Jamie/Scott Hulstein
- Sandy/Dave Lamfers

Library Volunteers



- 5: Leona Meendering
12: Janice Runia
19: Phyllis Vander Linden
26: Pauline Van Engen



Celebrations

~~Birthday's~~

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 Arnie Langstraat
Heidi Saylor | 18 Addison Hulstein
Darlene Jurgens | 28 David Calsbeek |
| 4 Luella Eggink | 19 Cory Maxwell | 29 Nash Loerts
Kim McDougall |
| 5 Clint Klaassen | 22 MacKenzie Beyer | 30 Logan Bruxvoort |
| 6 Blake Loerts | 23 Chelsey Alexander
Cole Hoekstra | |
| 7 Sandy Heronimus
Darcy Martinez | 24 Glenda De Boer
Brian Loerts | |
| 8 Dee Baker | 25 Nick Buysman
Mitch Kreykes | |
| 9 Marissa Heibult | | |
| 10 Sofia Hisek
Mark Van Der Sloom
Bryan Verdoorn
Margarett Travaille | | |
| 11 John Mc Dougall | | |
| 12 Tim Kruger
John Van Diepen, SR. | | |
| 13 Greg Tracy | | |
| 14 Kevin Klaassen | | |
| 15 Brianna Jacobsma | | |
| 17 Abby Kreykes | | |

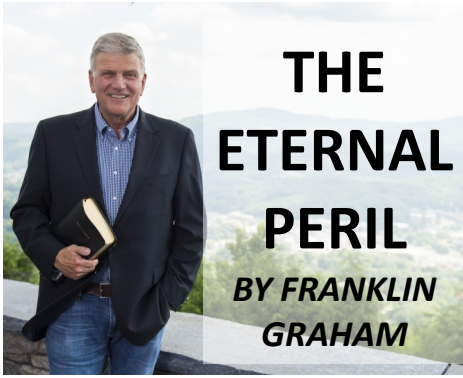
I have found
THE ONE
Whom my soul Loves
SONG OF SOLOMON 3:4

~~Anniversaries~~

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 8 Bobby and Dee Baker..... | 48 years |
| 8 Joel and Angie Van Gelder | 5 years |
| 16 Mark and Rosie Hulstein | 4 years |
| 18 Ken and Sandy Heronimus..... | 40 years |
| 19 Ted and Eileen Schutte..... | 10 years |
| 20 Jason and Gina Jacobsma | 19 years |
| 30 Bob and Gladys Tiedeman..... | 52 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



For decades, a war has been raging against Biblical Christianity that goes under the seemingly innocent name of “progressive Christianity.” It has cropped up in the halls of seminaries, infiltrated the pulpits of thousands of churches and been propagated by a godless liberal media. It is bent on casting doubt and undermining the foundational principles of God’s Word.

Many of the Apostle Paul’s letters were written to churches that were experiencing serious doctrinal errors. One of his

sternest was penned to the church in Galatia, which is part of modern-day Turkey. In it, he launched into a stern rebuke for the teaching that had polluted the Galatian church:

“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God’s curse!” (Galatians 1:6-9, NIV).

In the case of the Galatians, Paul was specifically addressing their attempt to return to the demands of the law rather than continuing to live by grace through faith in the sacrificial, atoning work of the cross of Jesus Christ. Such an attempt wasn’t just a really bad idea; it actually would result in living under God’s curse, not His favor.

I would say the exact same warning applies today to the advocates of progressive Christianity. They deceitfully promote and proclaim what I believe is clearly a “different gospel, which is really no Gospel at all.”

Let me say that again—progressive Christianity is not a Gospel at all. It has nothing to do with the Gospel of Christ’s death, burial and resurrection. It results in nothing but spiritual confusion and chaos.

Here’s the problem.

Progressive Christianity denies the divinely inspired, authoritative truth of the Bible as it intersects every facet of living. For example, although Scripture clearly says that marriage is between one man and one woman, proponents of progressive Christianity twist and distort the truth of God’s Word on sexuality, focusing on such nonsensical trends as gender identity. They deny God’s distinction of the sexes, and instead invent their own misguided standards, unguided by the Word of God. The degrading cultural influences that embrace such movements as gay marriage have more sway on their beliefs than the Bible does.

When the topic of justice is discussed, progressive Christianity is primarily concerned with the issues of social and racial justice (which the Bible does address), but most often neglects the far more fundamental issue of *God's* justice—how a holy and just God deals with sinful and wicked men.

And when it comes to the matter of personal sin, progressive Christianity most frequently fails to see the ruinous consequences of mankind's depraved, sinful state. Biblical teaching on the precious blood of Christ, the sacrificial, substitutionary, atoning work of Christ's death on the cross, is too often neglected or distorted. So the real, ultimate danger is that progressive Christianity can send a person to hell. I know that sounds harsh, but it's true.

To reject the deity of Christ is to deny Christ and doom yourself to an eternity spent in hell. To love darkness more than light will end in an eternity in hell. To hope that good works alone will earn salvation, while rejecting the gift of everlasting life through faith in Christ alone, will lead straight into the eternal abyss. To deny the fullness of the Trinity—God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit—can risk a person spending their eternity separated from the glory and splendor of God Almighty. Do you see how anything other than orthodox, Biblical Christianity can be so dangerous and deadly? That's why the Apostle Paul called down a curse on those who preach a different gospel than the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Here's how Paul precisely defined the Gospel:

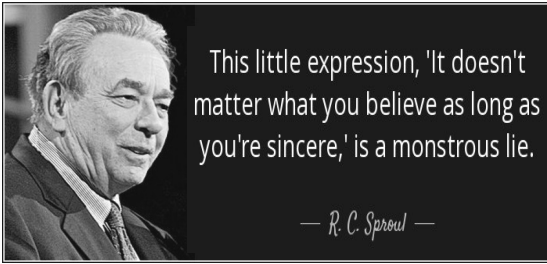
“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4, NKJV).

This is the only saving Gospel. Preachers must faithfully proclaim it from the pulpit if they want their congregants to be convicted of their sin and to trust solely in the blood of Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. Praise and worship have their place in the church, but there is no substitute for pastors preaching the power of the cross and the resurrection.

Pastors today must “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry” (2 Timothy 4:2-5, NKJV).

There's certainly nothing very forward thinking about progressive Christianity. It actually regresses into unbiblical thinking and living, and it will put a person's very soul in eternal jeopardy. Evangelicals need to guard the truth of genuine Scriptural preaching and living, remaining true and bold about exactly what the Bible clearly teaches. There is no other way to be saved and secured for all eternity.

THE DOCTRINE OF SCRIPTURE



If defining God is the first question of theology, then the second is working out the doctrine of Scripture. What is true about the Bible is important to Christians because the doctrine of scripture is not about a book; *it is about the person and work of Christ.*

The Reformers focused on which books were to be included in the Bible, and why the Bible (*not the pope or church*) is the ultimate source of truth. Today the battle is over a doctrine called *inerrancy*. This is the doctrine that the Bible was inspired by God and is without error in matters of both faith and science. There are many scriptural references to support this position, including the way that Jesus talked about scripture. The most familiar verse is II Timothy 3:16, “*All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness.*”

Forgive the theological history, but there are three viewpoints that are really important to us today.

1. **Liberalism** is the theological position that emerged in the late 19th century in Germany. These theologians rejected all things miraculous. After all, they lived in an age of reason and science. How could anyone intelligent believe in walking on water, virgin births, or resurrection from the dead. Therefore, we have to question everything in the Bible. It is just myth. Jesus was an ‘example’ for us to follow, not a savior. Modern man could save himself.
2. **Neo-Orthodoxy** was one response to Liberalism. Men like Karl Barth tried to bring Christianity back to a more orthodox position, and he did. However, he did not get all the way back to an inerrant view of scripture. These theologians taught that the Bible ‘became’ true for believers. They thought it was the word of God, but it *erred*. They did believe that Jesus died and rose from the dead, but they still struggled with ‘cultural’ references and the need to figure out how to apply the Bible to modern life.
3. **Fundamentalism** was the term given to the response of orthodox protestant theologians, primarily in the USA, for their adherence to five fundamental beliefs. They were *biblical inerrancy, divinity of Christ, virgin birth of Jesus, physical resurrection of Christ, and his coming return*. Evangelicalism, as a movement, emerged from this movement as fundamentalism took on other connotations.

Why is this important? What does it have to do with Sibley FRC? Like others before us we are in the position of asking whether or not the Bible is true or not. First, our denomination is split on this issue. We have churches across the spectrum from liberal to orthodox. Our colleges and seminaries are also split, so our pastors do not share a common belief about scripture. Second, our culture thinks everyone has better ideas than the Bible. It is of little or no importance.

But *if God is the author of scripture, then scripture is true and we need to be obedient.*



THEOLOGY 101

BELGIC & WESTMINSTER CONFESSIONS

If we claim to be reformed Christians, we need to hold to the view that the Bible is inerrant and the foundation for our view of the world and the church.

The Confessions spend a great deal of time on the Scriptures, establishing their origin, authority, and purpose. The Reformers were adamant that the Bible consisted of the original 66 books, excluding the Apocrypha. They also insisted that the Scripture alone was the sufficient source of truth about God and salvation. *Sola Scriptura!*

Consider the Westminster Shorter Catechism Q2. *What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him?* A: The Word of God, contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us on how we may glorify and enjoy Him.

Two things concern me. First, the increasing trend in our culture to dismiss the Bible as a myth or as something not true. We trust our ideas or the opinions of culture more than the words of God. Second, we in the church treat the Bible as untrue or unimportant by not studying and obeying what God has said.

Jesus said in John 14:15, *If you love me, you will keep my commandments*. And in Matthew 4:4, *he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."* We need to all remember that *it is written*.

Topic	Belgic Confession—1561	Westminster Confession—1647
Revelation	Article 2 <i>By What Means God is Made Known Unto Us</i>	1.1 <i>Of the Holy Scriptures</i>
The Holy Scriptures	Article 3 <i>The Written Word of God</i> Article 4 <i>Canonical Books of the Holy Scriptures</i> Article 5 <i>From Whence the Holy Scriptures Derive Their Dignity and Authority</i> Article 7 <i>The Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures to be the Only Rule of Faith</i>	1.1, 1.2, 1.4 - 1.10 <i>Of the Holy Scriptures</i>
The Apocrypha	Article 6 <i>The Difference Between the Canonical and Apocryphal Books</i>	1.3 <i>Of the Holy Scriptures</i>



PRAY FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

1. Kelsey Doorenbos

2. Merlin and Karen Doorenbos

3. Paul Doorenbos

4. Pray for our College Students

5. Pray for our Church

6. Cody Dykstra

7. Cory and Amy Dykstra; Wyatt, Cole

8. LaVon Dykstra

9. Mark and Tanya Dykstra; Tanner, Makya

10. Ron and Nancy Dykstra

11. Pray for our College Students

12. Pray for our Church

13. Scott and Marlys Dykstra

14. Trudy Dykstra

15. Luella Eggink
16. Jon and Amy Elser; Mariah, Maverick

17. Anita Ernst

18. Pray for our College Students

19. Pray for our Church

20. Harold and Mim Ernst

21. Paul Feldkamp

22. Gert Gaalswyk

23. Russ Gaalswyk

24. Gene and Renae Groen

25. Pray for our College Students

26. Pray for our Church

27. Bob and Janice Groen

28. Clark Haken

29. Lennis and Marvella Harberts;
Uchan, Apiyo, Ahbea, Aysha

30. Ed and Jan Harskamp

31. Bill and LaDonn Hartzell

College Students:

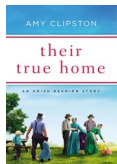
Mackenzie Beyer	Carter Brouwer	Dalten Bremer	Leah Ackerman
Logan Bruxvoort	Andrea Leusink	Ashilyn Hulstein	Grant Brouwer
Kaden Maxwell	Austin Wassman	Natalie Klaassen	Tanner Dykstra
Teddy Van Gelder	Tyler Feldkamp		Jaeger Johnson
			Alex Mc Dougall
			Ryan Van Marel

BE A
Prayer
WARRIOR

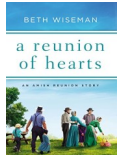
Grace Covenant Ministries

PRAYER JOURNAL

From the library--



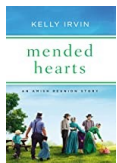
This month we have two books but five stories. **AN AMISH REUNION** contains four mini books written by different authors. The first one is **THEIR TRUE HOME** by **Amy Clipston**. "When Marlene Bawell moved from Bird-in-Hand ten years ago, she was in the deepest of mourning for her mother. Now her family has moved back so her father can seek employment after being laid off. To help save money, Marlene works at the hardware store owned by Rudy Swarcy's father. She knew Rudy growing up and had a secret crush on him, though he never seemed to notice her. But just as a friendship between them begins to blossom, her life is once again turned upside down."



The second story is **A REUNION OF HEARTS** by **Beth Wiseman**. "Ruth and Gideon Butler experienced one of life's more tragic events. Unable to get past their grief, the couple abandoned their Amish faith and went in different directions, though neither could bear to formally dissolve the marriage. When their loved ones reach out to them to come home for a family reunion, Ruth has reason to believe that Gideon won't be there. Gideon also thinks that Ruth has declined the invitation. Family and friends are rooting for them to reunite, but will it all be enough for Ruth and Gideon to get past their grief?"



Story number three is **A CHANCE TO REMEMBER** by **Kathleen Fuller**. "Cevilla Schlabach, Birch Creek's resident octogenarian matchmaker, is surprised when Richard, a man from her *Englisch past*, arrives in *Birch Creek* for a visit. While he and Cevilla take several walks down memory lane, they wonder what the future holds for them at this stage of life."



The final story is **MENDED HEARTS** by **Kelly Irvin**. "At eighteen Hannah Kauffman made a terrible mistake. Her parents and members of her Jamesport Amish community say they've forgiven her. But she feels their eyes following her everywhere she goes with eighteen-month old Evie. Thaddeus, Evie's father, escaped this fate by running away from Jamesport. Now that Thaddeus is gone, Hannah's old friend Phillip is stepping up to be by her side. He has waited patiently for Hannah to realize just how much he cares for her. But when Thaddeus returns after two years, Hannah can't deny the love she feels for him. Does the fact that Phillip has waited patiently for her all this time mean that she owes him something? Can she trust either one of them?"



The other book is **THE FLORENCE LEGACY** by **Lauraine Snelling**. "As the last will of a close friend is read, three women discover that they have inherited a legacy from her: the funds to take a dream trip to Florence, Italy, in her memory. With plenty of hilarious travel mishaps along the way, the book is a story of deep friendship, of making room in our lives for celebration and remembering, and of the sweetness of unexpected romance."

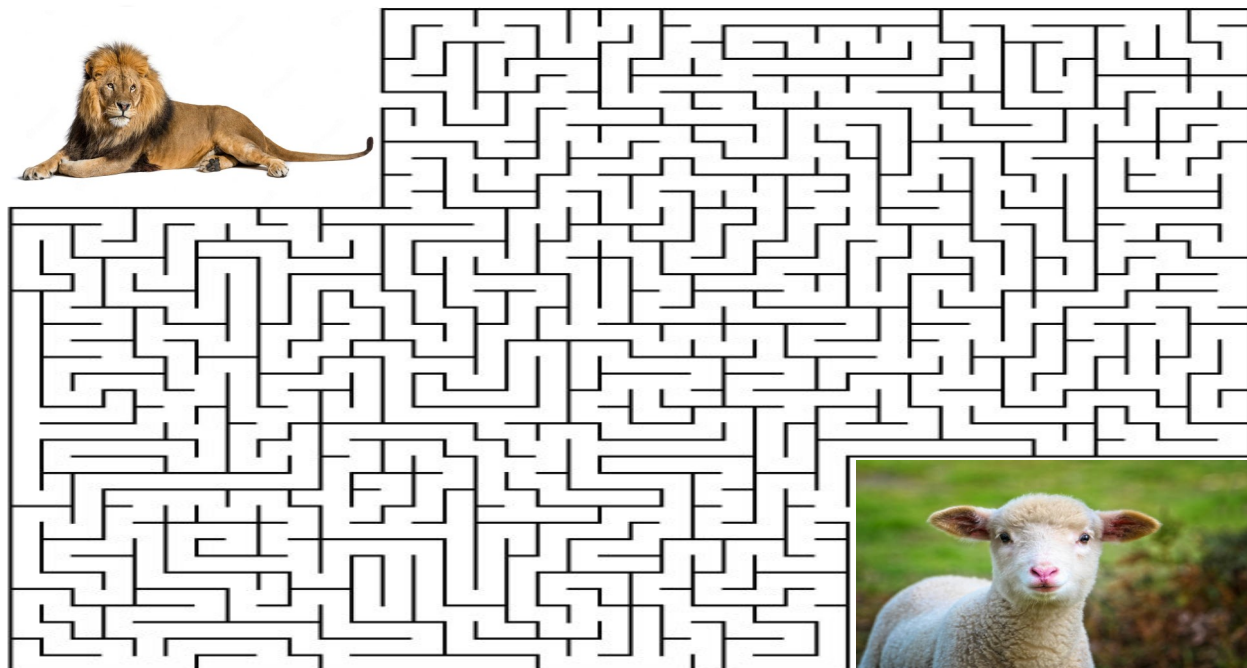
Maybe you have noticed in the bulletin that a new book or two is put out each week. Keep checking the library for a novel that will interest you.

~~Jeannette Juffer

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash	Holy Week
Wednesday	Holy Thursday
Sacrifice	Good Friday
Almsgiving	Holy Saturday
Prayer	Easter
Fasting	Palm Sunday
Lent	Purple
Palm Branch	Passover
Forty Days	Foot Washing
Jesus	Resurrection
Passover	Love





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:

March 5, 12, 19, 26

Wednesday Bible Classes (1st-5th grades) & MS and HS Remnant Youth Groups:

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

College Addresses

Hudson Feldkamp

825 Legacy Lane
Unit 61
Brookings, SD 57006

Ryan Van Marel

804 Medary Ave. South
Brookings, SD 57006

Alex Mc Dougall

2040 Hawthorn Ct. Drive
#7122
Ames, IA 50010-9169

Jagger Johnson

4709 Steinbeck Street
Apt 11
Ames, IA 50014

Tanner Dykstra

3029 N. 47th Street
Lincoln, NE 68504

Grant Brouwer

DU 2335
700 7th Street NE
Sioux Center, IA 51250

Leah Ackerman

5008 W. Equestrian Pl.
Apt 217
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Ashilyn Hulstein

718 9th Ave
Brookings, SD 56007

Dalton Bremer

Rm# 612 A-2
1110 North Dubuque St.
Iowa City, IA 52245

Austin Wassman

1434 Tyler Ave
Ocheyedan, IA 51354

Andrea Leusink

BVU Box 2461
610 W. Fourth Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Carter Brouwer

SDSU
Room 421
Binnewies Hall
Box 2805
Brookings, SD 57007

Tyler Feldkamp

254 Main Street
Buies Creek, NC 27506

Ted Van Gelder

SDSU
Room #324-A1
Young Hall
Box 2807
Brookings, SD 57007

Kaden Maxwell

104 S. Harmon Drive
Mitchell, SD 57301

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,

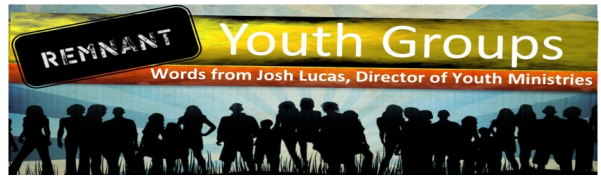
Wow, is it wintertime still? I thought we were done with the snow and freezing temps since most of this week and even over the weekend it was beautiful, and snow was melting. However, we still have a few more weeks left of winter and there possibly can be some snow fall or even freezing temps. It really can be a pain in the neck can't it? Not knowing. Not knowing what is going to happen in the future, or not knowing if this situation is going to pan out or not. I am sure that you are all aware by now about me leaving nearly two years ago October and I went to work at the Minnehaha County Jail. This was a very fulfilling and rewarding experience, but it was not at all what I expected. The training was fun, and I had exceeded in all of the training, in fact some of my trainers even told me that I was made for this job, but yet once I started being in the job I did not feel at peace or even happy. I was constantly bereded, threatened, having to defend myself, and came home to basically bottle all of those emotions inside so I didn't take them out on Hannah or the girls. I prayed while on one of my shifts after a pretty bad tussle with an inmate, "God, please let this end." At the time I didn't really know what to do. At that point I just wanted this job to end and me be done with it. Until God opened a door, literally.

We were housing a juvenile at the jail because he was too much of a problem at the juvenile detention center. We were given strict orders to not talk to him or engage with him, because he was a manipulator and we had to try to keep him a "secret" from the other inmates. I was doing a mandatory 15-minute wellness check around the pod that I was in and I had to walk past the juvenile. I walked past his cell and he was pressed up against the cell door against the glass. I stopped and asked him, "You doing alright?" He then glares at me and nods his head ever so slightly. I nod my head and finish my 15-minute wellness check and I went back over to his cell. I asked him again, "Dude, what's going on? People do not normally press themselves against this glass." In that moment he opened up to me. He told me about his case, how serious it is, and how he wishes he never did what he did. I then broke protocol, I stood and talked to him. I learned about his life, family, and his upbringing. I proceeded to minister to him and to tell him that he needs to get right with God first before anything else. It was in that moment that the light switch turned on, "I need to go home." I was not talking about the home that we were trying to make in Sioux Falls, I was talking about Sibley. I came home and told Hannah everything about what I was feeling and my thoughts. She said, "Call Ken Loerts." I called Ken pretty much that day and next thing I knew we are moving back to Sibley, and I was welcomed back to church.

Of course, everyone's story is different. For some people it takes years for a situation to change, but for others like me, it took a couple of months. No matter the timing we have to trust in God. I know that sounds like a cliché answer, but it is true. One of my favorite passages in Scripture is Romans 8:28, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." Believe in these words from God, that everything is going to work together for the good. Even the bad things are going to work together with the good. Also, is there anything that God is requiring of you? Is there something that you need to do in order for something to change? God is not our magical genie! There is work that needs to be done on our part as well. Trust and God, He will not let you down.

Blessings,

Josh Lucas



Dad Jokes With Josh:

Did you hear the one about the magic tractor?

It went down a lane and turned into a field.



JJ TenClay

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it (John 1:5)

Friends, I am writing this update on January 6 (Epiphany), which is one of my favorite liturgical holidays. Why? Because it celebrates Jesus coming as the light of the world...a light that cannot be extinguished, no matter how dark things become.

In my work with refugees and displaced people, it is the light that I must focus on. 2022 proved to us—once again in an overwhelming way—that the forced displacement of people all over the world is not going away. It is increasing at an alarming rate, with fewer and fewer possibilities for displaced people to safely return home, or to be provided with a safe, legal, and compassionate pathway toward permanent refuge elsewhere.

Our faithful response to this darkness is to share the light.

Thanks to your partnership in this ministry, we were able to share the light of Christ with hundreds of refugees and displaced people.

Thanks to you, we raised the money needed to support the Rohingya Refugee Education Project for one full year. This project, run by our mission partners of Partners Relief & Development, currently provides free education, clothing, shoes, school supplies, food, and clean water for 600 Rohingya children in eight schools living in Myanmar and Bangladesh. It also provides local teachers with training, support, teaching materials, and stipends.

Asiya is one of these students. In 2017 the Myanmar military came to Asiya's village, where they killed many villagers, set fire to houses, and assaulted women and children. Asiya was able to flee with her mother and brother, walking for several days with no food or clean water until they reached the shore of a river. They stayed there for 10 days, unsure of where to go to find safety. Then, more violence erupted and they gave all of their family jewelry to a man who helped them cross the river into Bangladesh by boat. They eventually made it to the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, where they have lived for the past five years.

Asiya was forced to drop out of school at age 10 because her mother couldn't afford the school fees and Asiya needed to work to support her family. Asiya says, "I always wanted to go back to school but didn't have the chance." Thanks to your support, she now has that opportunity! Asiya's favorite subject is English, and she is using her education to also help educate her neighbors and relatives.

The light shines in the darkness...

After raising the funds for the Rohingya Refugee Education Project, I turned my attention to the people of South Sudan, who have experienced more darkness than many of us can comprehend for far too long.

South Sudan is the world's youngest country, having gained its independence from Sudan in 2011 after decades of violent conflict. Unfortunately, this independence did not stop the violence and horrific human rights abuses affecting the country and her people. Since 2013, more than 4 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes. Many have fled to

Uganda and live in refugee camps where they continue to experience hunger, family separation, violence, persecution, and the lasting effects of profound and pervasive trauma. RCA mission partners (RECONCILE, International) and RCA missionaries (Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather) are committed to providing peace and reconciliation, social cohesion, and trauma care services for South Sudanese refugees living in Uganda, but they need additional funding to keep these services going. Therefore, RCA Global Mission is committed to raising \$85,000 (USD) to support these services. We announced the South Sudan Refugee Care Project for World Refugee Day in June 2022, and hope to have the \$85,000 raised by June 2023.

- I know it's one more "ask" amid so many requests for financial support, but will you join us in sharing the light with the people of South Sudan? If yes, contact me at jitenclay@rca.org for more information.
- Will you pray for them, South Sudan, and their current host country of Uganda?
- Will you pray for RECONCILE, International and the [Smith-Mather](#) family as they continue to provide compassionate, Christ-like care for people who are ready to return home and be peacemakers in their beloved homeland?

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

I turn to the beginning of John every Epiphany, and I will continue to turn to these words again and again on the days when the darkness of the world feels almost overwhelming in this work of caring for refugees and displaced people.

Yes, there is much darkness in this world...No, it is not going away...

Let's continue to shine the light together.

In Deep Gratitude,

JJ TenClay, Missionary and Refugee Ministries Coordinator RCA Global Mission



Holiday Meal Kits 2022

We are once again blown away by the generous donations received for the Holiday Meal Kits. We were given some additional challenges this year as the banks weren't able to hold onto as much money or send people with a full withdrawal for safety reasons. This meant we had to send our team to the bank more often to get smaller amounts of money. This also brought some hesitation in case people were closely watching to see who was coming and going to the bank frequently. Thankfully, it all worked and our team was able to work on meal kit purchasing, packaging and distributing. Thanks to all of you, were able to distribute 79 meal kits!

Mesi anpil (thank you so very much)!

~Radiate Haiti Ministries



Radiate Haiti Ministries



SURVEY RESULTS

What are First Reformed Church's Top 22 Hymns and Praise Songs??? Here they are:

Hymns

1. Amazing Grace
2. It Is Well With My Soul
3. How Great Thou Art
4. Great is Thy Faithfulness
5. Blessed Assurance
6. Holy Holy Holy
7. What a Friend We Have in Jesus
8. They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love
9. Victory in Jesus
10. To God Be the Glory
11. He's Got the Whole World in His Hands
12. I Know Who Holds Tomorrow
13. The Old Rugged Cross
14. Wonderful Grace of Jesus
15. My Tribute
16. Be Thou My Vision
17. Come Thou Font
18. Family of God
19. He Leadeth Me
20. I Love to Tell the Story
21. Living For Jesus
22. Lord of the Universe

Top 22 of 125 Songs submitted

Praise Songs

1. In Christ Alone
2. Hymn of Heaven
3. Revelation Song
4. Lord I Need You
5. Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)
6. Goodness of God
7. 10,000 Reasons
8. How Deep the Father's Love For Us
9. No Longer Slaves
10. Reckless Love
11. Here I am to Worship
12. Shine, Jesus Shine
13. King of Kings
14. By Your Grace - Cody Johnson
15. We Believe - Newsboys
16. Graves into Gardens -
17. The Blessing
18. As the Deer
19. What a Beautiful Name
20. What If
21. You Say
22. Look Up Child

Top 22 of 174 Songs submitted

Summary from Comments:

While we did not ask for comments about traditional hymns or praise and worship songs, it is very clear that among our congregation there are those who prefer traditional church music and those who prefer current praise and worship music. Both sides were strongly represented. There was also a theme of some current praise and worship music being difficult to sing in a congregational setting. Thank you for your comments. They have been passed along to our Worship Ministry Team.

Sportsmen's Devotional



Bible Study Verse

John 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world! (NKJV)

Thoughts

Given the fact that John the Baptist had been studying for about 3 years in the wilderness, poring over Old Testament Messianic prophecies, you'd think that his first introduction of Jesus would be from those. But, no, the first words out of his mouth about his cousin, are the names of two animal sacrifices from the Temple.

The lamb of God that he mentions is the pesah, Passover lamb, the only lamb of Israel call lamb of God.

His reference to the one who takes away the sin of the world is a description of the azazel, or scapegoat of Yom Kippur, that carried away the guilt of the people.

These are two prominent and well-known animals of the whole Old Testament sacrificial system.

Action Point

The new-born brown goat in my picture became my namesake. When we walked up on the 4 little Filipinos in the foothills of NW Philippines during my recent missions trip, I saw that twin kids, one brown and one black, had just been born to their nanny.

They reminded me of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, in Israel. Two goats were brought to the Priest. Lots were cast on the two to see which one would die, and which would live. The one that lived was called the scapegoat.

Jesus came to be both. He died for my sins as my lamb of God, and carried away my guilt, as my scapegoat.

I need to thank Him each day for both:

For dying because of my sins, to pay my penalty.

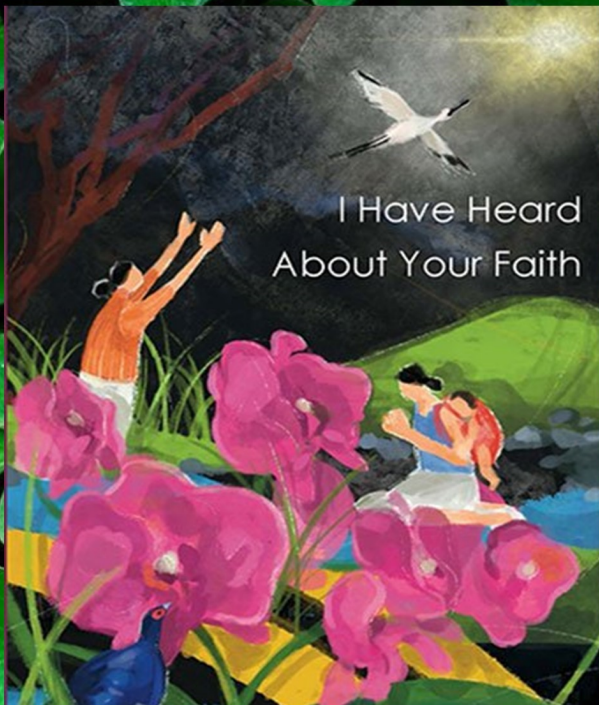
For taking the blame for all my sins, though He never sinned.

Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

When looking or glassing for game, look carefully for two, where you think you only see one. In the picture above, the black kid is hard to see, unless you look closely. He's under the nanny's chin. Don't miss having a choice of which animal to take, and of learning some valuable lessons by watching them interact.

Trivia Time Answers!!!

1. Eber, Peleg, Reu (1 Chron. 1:25) **2.** A race of giants (Deut 2:20) **3.** Ishmael (Gen 16:16, 21:14,20) **3.** White, red, black, pale (Rev 6:1-8) **4.** Mephibosheth (2 Sam 9:6,8) **5.** Philip (Acts 21:8,9) **6.** Og, the king of Bashan, who was a giant (Deut. 3:11) **7.** Wormwood (Rev 8:10,11) **8.** Joash (2 Kings 11:1,2) **9.** Gath (1 Sam 17:4)



I Have Heard
About Your Faith

World Day of Prayer
March 3, 2023 @ 2:00pm
at
Sibley Christian Reformed Church



**All men are invited to the
OCMA's Men's Lenten
Breakfasts**

Schedule:

March 1 @ 6:30am
Sibley Christian Reformed Church

March 15 @ 6:30am
Sibley First Reformed Church

March 29 @ 6:30 am
Sibley United Methodist Church



Our High School and Middle School students will be hosting a tip night at our local Sibley Pizza Ranch from **5:00-7:30 PM on MARCH 8**. Come visit Pizza Ranch, enjoy some yummy food and help support our Remnant Youth.