

# The Newsletter

## May 2024

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

### Class of 2024



**Congrats Seniors!**

Sibley-Ocheyedan High School  
Commencement:  
May 12 at 2:00 pm

Western Christian High School  
Commencement:  
May 14 at 7:00 pm

### May at a Glance

- 12: Happy Mother's Day  
2pm Graduation at Sibley-Ocheyedan High School
- 13: 6:00pm Elder & Deacon Meetings  
7:00pm Full Consistory will meet
- 14: 7pm Graduation at Western Christian High School
- 19: Communion Sunday
- 20: 9:30 am Faith Bible Study  
3:00 pm Patience Bible Study
- 24-25: 7pm-7am MS Remnant Church Lock-in
- 27: Memorial Day

*\*Sundays:*

- 9:00 am Praise and Worship Service
- 10:10 am Coffee Fellowship Time  
Sunday School is on break
- 6:30 pm Fellowship Bible Studies

*\*Tuesdays:*

- 8:30 am Quilting Chicks will meet

*\*Wednesday Evenings:*

- Bible Classes and Youth Groups are on summer break.

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[www.facebook.com/firstreformedsibley](http://www.facebook.com/firstreformedsibley)



[@sibleyfirstreformedchurch566](https://www.youtube.com/@sibleyfirstreformedchurch566)



## Stewardship & Giving

### Offering Summary through April 27:

- **General Fund: \$114,267.79**  
Budget: 443,532.29; 25% of budget
- **Benevolent Fund: \$11,013.33**  
Budget: \$68,275.23; 16% of budget
- **Building Fund offerings to date: \$670**

## Special Offering for May Radiate Haiti!!



# Faith In Action for May

## Vacation Bible School

Sign up to help teach, be a helper, bring food, work in the nursery, etc.!! It takes many people to help make VBS a success!!



## Special Congregational Meeting Highlights April 9, 2024

- A vote was taken to extend a contract offer to Pastor Brian Carpenter

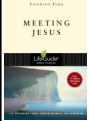
## Consistory Meeting Highlights April 11, 2024

- MMSA the Profession of Faith by the following individuals: Gracie Odens, Kendra DeBoer, Brysen Loerts, Taylor Langstraat (Baptism and Profession), Alex Bosma, Easton, Aiden and Dawson Beyer.
- MMSA for the Harberts family to use the kitchen and fellowship hall on Saturday May 18 for Apiyo and Uchan's Graduation party.
- Round Table Discussion meetings in regards to leaving the RCA will be on 4/16 and 4/17 at 7pm and 4/21 following the morning service.
- MMSA to extend a one year Senior Lead Pastor contract to Pastor Brian Carpenter

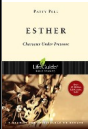
## Special Elder Meeting Highlights April 14, 2024

- MMSA the Profession of Faith by Dawson Kreykes

# GROWING IN THE WORD



**Faith Bible Study** will meet on **Monday, May 20 at 9:30 am**. We will be studying lesson #11 "Jesus the Sacrifice" in our book *Meeting Jesus*. Scripture will be Matthew 26:1-30. Jan Henrichs will be leader and Rhonda will serve as hostess. All are invited! Hope to see you there!



**Patience Bible Study** will meet on **Monday, May 20 at 3:00 pm**. We will be studying lesson #9 "Remembering and Celebrating," in our book *Esther*. Scripture for the lesson is Esther 9-10. Barb will lead and Dorothy will serve as hostess. Come for a time of fellowship and learning. We will be starting a new book in June on "Heaven" If you would like to join us, please let Barb know so we can get a book ordered for you. Hope to see you there!!



## **6:30pm Sunday Evening Fellowship Bible Study Opportunities!**

### **\*\*Message Discussion and Application Bible Study\*\***

\*Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar's home, \*FRC Fellowship Hall

### **\*\*Digging into God's Word -- James\*\***

\*Fireside Room

*All ages, singles and couples are invited to attend. Come, join a group and let's grow together!*

## **Trivia Fun Time**

1. To which bereaved woman did Jesus say, "Don't cry!"?
2. When Dr. Luke described the healing of a man on the Sabbath, he diagnosed the man's illness, using a medical term found nowhere else in the New Testament.  
What was the illness?
3. Only one of Jesus' miracles is recorded in all four Gospels. Which miracle?
4. What is the Bible reference for the famous verse which begins, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son..."?
5. After meeting Jesus, who said that he would give away half of his possessions to the poor?
  6. Which Gospel starts with the words, "The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God"?
7. True or False? Chapter 17 of John's Gospel contains Jesus' longest recorded prayer.
8. To which woman did Jesus say, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering"?
9. What was unusual about the place where Jesus healed a little girl who was possessed by an evil spirit?





# Celebrations

## ~~*Birthdays*~~

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 2 Brenda Ackerman<br>Andrea Leusink<br>Kristen Hurlburt | 19 Brian Alexander  | 27 Riley Christensen<br>Cody Hurlburt                      |
| 7 Tayah Beyer   | 20 Verlyn Smidt   | 28 Sayla Julius  |
| 8 Brenda Post<br>Codie Wynia                            | 21 Larry De Boer  | 29 Laurie Kraayenbrink<br>Daren Rockman<br>Justin Wagenaar |
| 9 Ruth Ann Wiersma                                      | 24 Teresa Hurlburt<br>Lawrynn Travaille<br>Clayton Wagenaar | 30 Ed Harskamp<br>Gladys Tiedeman                          |
| 10 Charlie Ackerman<br>Jamie Bruxvoort                  | 25 Imogene Rasmussen  | 31 Helen Vander Veen<br>Quinnley Ackerman                  |
| 11 Josh Lucas   | 26 Brysen Loerts  |  |
| 12 Keegan De Zeeuw                                      |   |  |
| 13 Fay Vos<br>Kacee Van Ruler<br>Kelsey Van Ruler       |   |  |
| 16 Larry Verdoorn<br>Josh Wagenaar<br>Anita Hoting      |   |  |
| 17 Katha Kruger   |   |  |

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

## ~~*Anniversaries*~~

- |                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| 7 Mark and Angela De Boer | 53 years |
| 9 Travis and Jill Boeke   | 15 years |
| 10 Dave and Sandy Lamfers | 44 years |
| 21 Nick and Sara Buysman  | 4 year   |
| 27 Dale and Karen Honken  | 41 years |
| 28 Troy and Meggan Block  | 19 years |



## Praise and Worship Greeters

- 5: E: Levi and Kira Christensen/family  
C: Larry and Melissa DeBoer/family  
W: Gary and Sandy De Vries
- 12: E: Stan and Abby De Zeeuw/family  
C: LaVon Dykstra  
W: Ron and Nancy Dykstra
- 19: E: Luella Eggink  
C: Jon and Amy Elser  
W: Anita Ernst
- 26: E: Gene and Renae Groen  
C: Bob and Janice Groen  
W: Lennis and Marvella Harberts/family

## Children & Worship during the service



Children and Worship is on  
Summer Break.  
See you all in the Fall!!



## Worship Service Nursery

- 5: Heidi and Grace Saylor  
12: Curt and Peg Van Kley  
19: TBD  
26: TBD



## Sunday School Nursery

Sunday School is on  
Summer Break.  
See you all in the Fall!!

## Fellowship Coffee Servers

- 5: Curt and Peg Van Kley  
12: Duane and Pam Vande Hoef  
19: Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar  
26: Lawrence and Ruth Wiersma

## Willing Hands Group

### Willing Hands Group #5

will be responsible for  
services during the month.

### Co-chairpersons are:

- Dar/Dennis Jurgens
- Deb/Greg Kusters
- Shelia/Harold Van Der Sloot

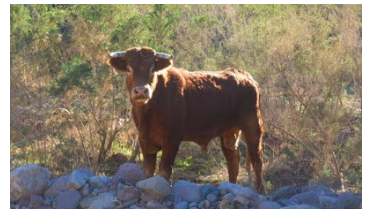
## Library Volunteers



- 5: Alfreda Verdoorn  
12: Kathy/Joel Verdoorn  
19: Ruth Ann Wiersma  
26: Gert Gaalswyk

# Sportsmen's Devotional

**Today's Photograph** Today's Photograph . . . Do Not Be Tempted to Cut Ethical Corner



## **Bible Study Verse**

Mark 7:14-16

Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them."

## **Thoughts**

I come from a ranching and farming heritage. Growing up in a very rural area, I was tasked from my earliest childhood with taking care of horses, livestock, and hunting--the only kind of life I knew until adulthood. Butchering livestock and wild game was nothing out of the "norm".

Along with that, harvesting various parts of animals for consumption, not considered edible by your average urban dweller, was also normal--the stomach of a cow or the liver of a deer to name a few. I have mentioned this to some friends throughout my life with less than positive responses: "Ugh! Cow tongue?!" "You eat rattlesnake?! You can't eat that stuff!"

## **Action Point**

Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. Read James 1:23-24.

Just as eating the less popular parts of an animal will not make you unclean, if your actions are not forthright, affiliation with a respected sportsmen group will not make you a true sportsman. Likewise, it does not matter what church you belong to, if your life and doctrine are not in agreement with it, membership will be of no advantage to you. "But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it--not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it--they will be blessed in what they do," James 1:25 (NIV).

Do not be tempted to cut ethical corners in the field, but be an ambassador for Christ wherever you are. You never know when the clean bright light that comes from you will shine on someone who will be influenced toward Christ!!!

## **Sportsmen's Tip of the Day**

When dealing with anti-hunters or anti-meat eaters, try not to overpower them with your opinions on the subject. They expect that from us. I always find it interesting to listen and take a philosophical approach. I have influenced at least one non-meat eater this way. Though he still does not eat meat, he is actually an advocate of hunting!

## From the library--

Along with the "Book of the Week" in the bulletin each Sunday here are synopsis from three more new books being added to the library.



Book #1 in the "Friendship Letters" series is *LETTERS OF TRUST* by Wanda E. Brunstetter. "Life is good on their Pennsylvania Amish farm for newlyweds Vic and Eleanor Lapp—until a tragic event occurs and Vic turns to alcohol to numb the pain. Things get so bad that Vic loses his job and their marriage is falling apart. Eleanor is desperate to help her husband and sends letters asking for advice to a friend who lives in Indiana. The trust Eleanor puts in her friend Doretta and the gentle words she receives in return are a balm for even darker days to come.



If you have read books one and two of the "Wyoming Sunrise" series by Mary Connealy, you will definitely want to read *MARSHALING HER HEART* the third and final book. "Becky Pruitt has always prided herself on knowing everything that's happening on her successful ranch, so an unexpected admission from her foreman, Nate Paxton, comes as quite a surprise. With the notorious Deadeye Gang on the loose, Nate—a former U.S. Marshal—believes Becky's ranch is the best spot for a group of Marshals to use as a base to hunt the Gang down. The timing couldn't be more crucial for the town of Pine Valley, and Becky feels obligated to help. But after escaping the grasp of her harsh father, she's never liked giving up control, of her life or her ranch. If there's anyone she can trust with her ranch, and her heart, it might be Nate. But the outlaws won't go away quietly, and as danger draws ever nearer, Becky and Nate are faced with impossible choices that will test their growing bond."



Last we have a 4in1 book, *THE LIBRARIAN'S JOURNEY*, four historical romances. "Part of FDR's New Deal was the Works Progress Administration, which funded the Pack Horse Library Initiative. Ride along with the four book-loving women who bravely fight for literacy in remote communities during the Great Depression. Will their efforts be rewarded by finding love in the process?"

*LOVE'S TURNING PAGE* by Cynthia Hickey—1935, Ozark Mountains—Grace Billings jumped at the chance to be a traveling librarian, but she didn't anticipate the long days of work, the intense poverty, or the handsome new school-teacher whose love for the mountain people surpasses even her own.

*FOR SUCH A TIME* by Patty Smith Hall—1936--Pine Mountain, Georgia—Ruth Sims joins the traveling library initiative, only to discover she must go to the one place she swore never to return. The children instantly steal her heart with their thirst for books, and she's happy in her post, until she meets their teacher, Will Munroe—the man who broke her heart.

*BOOK LADY OF THE BAYOU* by Marilyn Turk—1935, Mississippi—Forced out of her comfort zone, Lily Bee Davis travels by horse or boat, taking books to remote areas. When she meets little Evie and her reclusive father at a dilapidated plantation house, she is moved by their losses and longs to draw them out into life again.

*THE LIBRARIAN AND THE LAWMAN* by Kathleen Y'Barbo—1936, Kentucky—Lottie Trent connects with a backwoods bully's wife by secretly carrying messages for her in exchange for books. FBI agent Clayton Turnbow is on the trail of a criminal gang and discovers the packhorse librarian may be a key member."

Visit the library, there is sure to be a book that will spark your interest.

Jeannette Juffer

# PRAYER LIST

BE A  
*Prayer*  
WARRIOR  
Luke 21:36

## PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

1. Le Roy and Karen Stevenson
2. David and Lesa Stofferan
3. Bob and Gladys Tiedeman
4. Pray for our College Students
5. Pray for our Church
6. Ken and Sharalyn Tjaden
7. Greg Tracy; Lindy
8. Chad and Megan Travaille;  
Lawrynn, Margaret
9. Pastor Troy and Pam Van Beek
10. Randy and Kelli Van De Berg
11. Pray for our College Students
12. Pray for our Church
13. Duane and Pam Vande Hoef
14. Paul Vander Linden
15. Harold and Shelia Van Der Sloot
16. Mark Van Der Sloot;  
Damian, Jackson, Keegan
17. Helen Vander Veen
18. Pray for our College Students
19. Pray for our Church
20. Collin and Lexi Van Diepen; Teddy
21. Ger and Barb Van Diepen
22. John and Lois Van Diepen
23. Janelle Van Drunen
24. Jim and Pauline Van Engen
25. Pray for our College Students
26. Pray for our Church
27. Joel and Angie Van Gelder; Teddy
28. Curt and Peg Van Kley
29. Steve and Leanne Van Kley
30. Dean and Amy Van Marel; Ryan
31. David Van Ruler; Kacee and Kelsey

### **College Students:**

Marissa Ackerman  
Halle Block  
Tayler Bremer  
Madison Brouwer  
Regan Crichton  
Keegan De Zeeuw  
Makya Dykstra  
Maverick Elser  
Jared Kruger  
Emma Langstraat  
Matthew McDougal  
Gannon Rockman

MacKenzie Beyer  
Kaden Maxwell  
Teddy Van Gelder

Carter Brouwer  
Andrea Leusink

Dalten Bremer  
Ashilyn Hulstein  
Natalie Klaassen

Grant Brouwer  
Ryan Van Marel





# Congratulations! 2024 *class of*



## *Grace Elizabeth Bevers*

*~~Daughter of Tony and Jamiey Bevers and Karla Bevers~~*

I plan to attend the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD to pursue a degree in Pre-Nursing.

My favorite church/faith memory is meeting lifelong friends at Rodeo Bible Camp.

## *Michael Lawrence Block Jr.*

*~~Son of Mike and Andrea Block~~*

I plan to attend Northwestern in Orange City, IA where I will play football and pursue a degree in Criminal Justice.

My favorite church memory is going on the Fishing Trip.



## *Ella Grace Bruxvoort*

*~~Daughter of Jamie and Jennifer Bruxvoort~~*

I plan to attend the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD to pursue a degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Psychology.

My favorite church memory is attending Rocky Mountain High.



## *Aiden Leon De Zeeuw*

*~~Son of Stan and Abby De Zeeuw~~*

I plan to attend Drake University in Des Moines, IA to pursue a degree in Accounting.

My favorite church memory is playing Coup every night on the Louisiana Mission Trip and beating Josh.

## *Apiyo Nevaeh Harberts*

*~~Daughter of Lennis and Marvella Harberts~~*

I plan to attend college to become a Surgical Technician, however at this point I am undecided as to where that will be. I also plan to spend the second semester next year in Germany with Jeff and Chelsea's family.

My favorite church/faith memory: Waking up and seeing the mountains at Rocky Mountain High was a reminder of God's Creation for us. To me, it looked like a green screen. That is how amazing it was.



## *Uchan Beniyam Harberts*

*~~Son of Lennis and Marvella Harberts~~*

I plan to attend Northwest Iowa Community College to take general classes and enroll in the Industrial and Commercial Wiring program in 2025. I will continue working construction with Wade Heemskirk throughout this school year.

My favorite church/faith memory: When we got up early at Rocky Mountain High to go hiking and see the sunrise over God's creation.

## *Karissa Nicole Hulstein*

*~~Daughter of Scott and Jamie Hulstein~~*

I plan to attend Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge, IA to pursue a degree in Dental Hygiene.

My favorite church/faith memories are going to Power Connection in Middle School and staying in dorm rooms that didn't have air conditioning. I also was able to grow in my faith by attending a mission trip to Colorado and a youth retreat to Kentucky.





# Dear Mom: What No One Told You About High School Graduation



They said it would fly, these eighteen years, but it's hard to gauge the true gait of childhood until it's gained so much momentum you find yourself in the last lap.

This whole year has been one long list of lasts — pinnacles reached and milestones celebrated. There have been senior pictures and senior dinners, entrance exams and final exams, banquets and awards, meetings and rehearsals, convocation and graduation, parties, celebrations and a cap and gown Sunday service.

We moms of seniors have earned our tired and endured a hundred triggered emotions — from heart-swelling joy to head-wagging exasperation.

This year can leave a mom on edge and on her knees.

I've launched five kids so far through their senior year and into the next chapter. **You would think it gets easier, this releasing kids from home.** But each landmark last has tugged hard at my heart.

Those pictures we culled through and picked for the senior slide show? They don't begin to unwrap the ordinary beautiful that made up his life and mine these 18 years. They don't begin to tell the story of God's grace for a mom who wanted so much for her kids and knew so little about how to get there.

*Continued----->*



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:

Thank you for participating in OCC in 2023. In our Northwest Iowa Area, 10,163 shoeboxes were gathered (8,644 in 2022). Internationally, 11.3 million (10.5 million in 2022).

Praise God for this tremendous outpouring of love! Children in 100+ countries are blessed with the contents of the boxes and most importantly with the Good News of Jesus. Please keep praying for these children, and for the Gospel to continue to be spread through simple shoebox gifts.

Gratefully,

Loralie Wiese, OCC Church Relations

Coordinator Northwest Iowa Area Team

## THINKING OF YOU On Mother's Day



MOTHERS WHO  
HAVE LOST  
CHILDREN



THOSE WHO HAVE  
LOST MOTHERS



THOSE WITH  
STRAINED MOTHER  
RELATIONSHIPS



MOTHERS WITH  
STRAINED CHILD  
RELATIONSHIPS



THOSE WHO HAVE  
CHOSEN NOT TO BE  
MOTHERS



THOSE YEARNING  
TO BE MOTHERS



It's not just my own son's graduation that's making me nostalgic. **It's watching his whole friend group pose in cap and gown, friends who just a few summers ago were sporting sno-cone stashes from vacation Bible school and piling onto buses for their first week at away camp.** I watch them stand for pictures together, lanky arms across one other's shoulders with grins as wide as their dreams.



And I want to tell them — *breathe it in. Enjoy this fully.*

**Because I know something they don't.** *This is ending,* I whisper silently. *It took 18 full summers to get here and it will never be again. Even when you come home from your colleges and get together, it will be great but it won't be this.* **The momentum, at first hardly detectable, is unmistakable now.**

***Breathe it in. Enjoy this fully.***

**I'm watching these kids step from our lives into their own.** I always imagined being a mom as a destination. I knew from the start that there would be release one day, but it was way down the road and I couldn't see it because I was up to my eyeballs in mom stuff. Release is here now and release is hard.

All month I've wanted to push pause, to stop here for a while and hold on to it.

***"We do not know the true value of our moments until they have undergone the test of memory. Like the images the photographer plunges into a golden bath, our sentiments take on color; and only then, after that recoil and that trans-figuration, do we understand their real meaning and enjoy them in all their tranquil splendor. ~ Georges Duhamel***

**But I did know their value.** I've always sensed it — even on the hardest days and in my most impatient moments. I've treasured the little hand slipped into mine, a grocery cart full of tow-headed preschoolers, grass worn bare in the backyard from summers of touch football.

There were daily commutes in the car and hard nights up late and endless loads of laundry, but even those were cherished signs of full life with kids in the home. I tried my best to breathe it in and enjoy it fully, as if that would slow the steady march of days.

In the flurry of graduation activities, I've noticed the orange trees in our backyard producing small green oranges where there used to be a profusion of small white blossoms. Orange blossoms have an undeniable scent. I remember as a child driving through Florida's rolling hills of orange groves when the orange blossom fragrance was so strong it came right through our car windows. **And yet, as heady as that scent is, no farmer would be content with a grove of orange blossoms. His labor is meant to produce fruit.**

These last 18 years? They have been heady with the sweet fragrance that is childhood. But there is so much more.

**Dear Mom, you know what no one told you about high school graduation?**

There is yet great fruit. These first 18 years have been bud and blossom: a wonder-filled, breathtaking season. But your work was never meant to produce bud or blossom. All along, God has intended to produce fruit. Fruit only God can bring about.

And so, in this last lap of childhood, we let go. We release the bud and blossom, so tenderly stewarded these 18 years, and we trust the Master Gardener.

**There is yet good, good fruit ahead.**

# CHOOSING A CHURCH



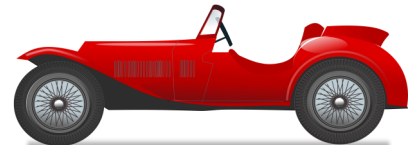
Technology affects everything—and always has! Have you ever thought about how the automobile changed the way we worship? At the beginning of the 20th century, most people attended a church close to home because people walked to church or came by horse or wagon. You can't go very far in an hour by either of these modes of transportation. Today, people can get 50 to 60 miles away in an hour. *This probably depends on how fast you drive or if you must stop for coffee.*

As the automobile became a common sight on the roads, people started flocking to cities and larger towns. This urbanization, coupled with the mobility offered by the automobile, led to a significant shift in religious practices. No longer tied to their 'home' church, people could find new places of worship. The urban landscape offered many choices, presenting a new set of challenges. Post-WWII, the trend of urban dwellers moving to suburbs further expanded the religious landscape, with even more churches to choose from.

In the Protestant world, more and more churches were divided over theology while new church movements like Pentecostalism took root. Preaching styles, worship styles, and music changed through the end of the last century. At the same time, more people adopted part, or all, of secular thinking about belief and church membership, and people could stay home and watch religious broadcasting on TV. In addition, there has been a shift from thinking of worship only as music or a feeling you have during the service.

As a result, people are no longer always committed to their local church. If something happens they don't like it is really easy to drive down the road to another church that they think has better music or a better preacher. People are *shopping* for churches and can switch them as easily as they switch grocery stores.

There are reasons to leave a church, and if you continue to read this article, you can see *between the lines* what is driving our congregation to question staying with the RCA. I know that Guido de Bres did not have this in mind when he wrote the Belgic Confession, but it is still relevant to the questions we face today. **Article 29: The Marks of the True Church** outlines for reformed believers what we should consider when picking a congregation or a denomination to join.



# ARTICLE 29 OF THE BELGIC CONFESSION

**Article 29** contains three marks of a true church and an injunction not to be separated from it. At the time of the Dutch Reformation, it was most important to distinguish between the Catholic church, other emerging denominations, and the true church that came from Geneva. A true church will demonstrate the following:

## 1. **Pure preaching of the gospel**

We must remain faithful to the truth of the Bible. It is inerrant and may not be changed or adapted to suit current trends.

## 2. **Pure administration of sacraments**

The Reformed church celebrates two sacraments—baptism and communion. We believe that Jesus is present at those two celebrations but is not physically present in the elements. We baptize our infants, following the everlasting covenant made with Abraham. We do baptize adult converts who have never been baptized. Generally, we sprinkle because the priests sprinkled the blood of sacrifices for the atonement of the sins of God's people.

## 3. **Practices church discipline**

Many of you remember examples of congregational discipline from your youth that seemed severe. They may have caused you to leave that denomination as an adult. However, we are facing problems in the RCA that could have been solved with a church government that could lovingly discipline congregations and classis that have strayed from the truth of scripture. Church discipline is not only for the individual but for the congregation and classis in the full Presbyterian form of church government.

Like the church before us we need to *govern ourselves according to the **pure Word** of God and reject anything contrary to it*. Jesus Christ is our head, we must not be separated from Him or his Bride.

### **Article 29: The Marks of The True Church**

*We believe that we ought to discern diligently and very carefully, by the Word of God, what is the true church— for all sects in the world today claim for themselves the name of “the church.”*

*We are not speaking here of the company of hypocrites who are mixed among the good in the church and who nonetheless are not part of it, even though they are physically there. But we are speaking of distinguishing the body and fellowship of the true church from all sects that call themselves “the church.”*

***The true church can be recognized if it has the following marks: The church engages in the pure preaching of the gospel; it makes use of the pure administration of the sacraments as Christ instituted them; it practices church discipline for correcting faults.***

*In short, it governs itself according to the pure Word of God, rejecting all things contrary to it and holding Jesus Christ as the only Head. By these marks one can be assured of recognizing the true church— and no one ought to be separated from it.*



## 2024 Annual Men & Boys FRC Fishing Trip



**When:** July 11-14

**Where:** Hidden Hill Lodge, Roslyn, SD  
(HiddenHillLodge.com)

**Who:** Invite your grandkids, friends or any want-to-be fisherman for this fun filled weekend of fishing and discovering God's Creation.

Sign-up at the Information Center if Interested!



### Trivia Time Answers:

1. The widow of Nain who was about to bury her son.
2. Dropsy, which is an accumulation of fluid.
3. The feeding of the 5,000.
4. John 3:16
5. Zacchaeus
6. Mark's Gospel
7. True
8. To a woman who had been suffering from bleeding for twelve years.
9. The miracle took place outside Palestine in the region of Tyre and Sidon.





## Education Schedule:

- Sunday School is on break until fall.
- MS Remnant is on break until fall.
- HS Remnant is on break until fall.

Have a fun and safe Summer!!

See you all at VBS (students and volunteers) on June 2-5!!

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

## MERRY MONTH OF MAY

### Word Search



## Congratulations

### College Graduates

- **Ashilyn Hulstein** will be graduating from South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD with a major in Agronomy and a minor in Precision Agriculture. She will be working for CFE's new drone program in George as an Aerial Application Specialist.
- **Kaden Maxwell** will be graduating from Mitchell Technical College in Mitchell, SD with a degree in Precision Agriculture. He will be working for CFE's new drone program in George as an Aerial Application Specialist.
- **Hannah Lucas** will be graduating from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, AZ with a bachelor of Science Degree in Counseling. She plans to first focus on raising their children then at some point begin offering counseling to postpartum mothers.

*If you have a or are a college graduate, please forward your information to the office so we can celebrate with you!*

BASEBALL

BLOSSOM

BUMBLEBEE

BUTTERFLY

CINCO DE MAYO

FLOWERS



GARDEN

GEMINI

GREEN

LADYBUG

LAWN MOWER

MAYPOLE

MEMORIAL DAY

MOM

MOTHER'S DAY

PIÑATA

PLANT

SEEDS

SPRING

SUNSHINE

TAURUS

TEACHER

Hello First Reformed Church,

I heard something the other day when I was talking to a parent of a high school upper classman that really made me think, "Huh, I wonder what would happen if we all had this mentality." I was talking about prom with this parent and they told me that they were going to still have their children attend Sunday morning worship, even though their kids got home around 5:00am that morning. I asked about this and they gave me just a simple response, "If they could be out all night for prom, they can come to church the next morning." It hit me like a freight train at first, because at first glance it seemed like a harsh punishment. However, I had time to think it over and then I realized something else, this is NOT the current state of our mindset with church and heavenly things. As modern Christians we tend to think, "Well Sunday is worship and Sunday School, but there is this thing we have that conflicts with that, so we can skip church one Sunday." Now I want to make one thing clear, I know there are people who cannot be at worship on Sundays, but they attend somewhere else so they don't miss out, so if that is your situation don't feel like I am attacking you, but think about this for a moment, is God a priority in our lives? I know that there is a huge debate about what to do on the Sabbath day and what not to do and it drives people crazy. However, I think that we should all agree that if nothing else, God needs to be at the center of the focus on the Sabbath. What are we doing to make the Sabbath day special and different than the other six days of work? How are we worshipping God on the Sabbath if we are not in worship with other fellow believers? If we say that Jesus is number one in our lives and Lord of all, how do we show that?



This is not to say that you have to attend worship to be saved, however how are you getting fed if you don't show up? That is one of the main goals of the church is to feed the sheep. To encourage one another, build each other up, pray for one another, hold each other accountable, all of these things is one of the goals for each Christian on Sunday morning. I want to say something for each parent to think about and if you disagree fine, but think about this quote I found, "Church, Disney may very well be coming for your kids, but travel ball took a lot of them a long time ago" Adam Wyatt. When I saw that quote it immediately convicted me as a parent. I may not have my kids in travel sports or anything, but I think about the times where I have put the ministry before my family. When I put tv or phone time over playing with my Joanna or Allegra. Brothers and sisters, I am right there with you, I am not a perfect parent, but I do know that my kids need to be in worship, Sunday school, Bible study with me and Hannah, they need Jesus constantly because this world and our culture does not offer Jesus. Kids cannot survive on two hours a week of Jesus. If they see you make Jesus a priority, they too will make it a priority as well. If you don't show much interest or only when it's convenient don't be surprised when they get older that they want nothing to do with church, Bible study or any of that.

Here is my encouragement parents. I love sports, extra curriculars, all of these things I have participated in and still participate in, but we HAVE to make God a priority in our lives. We have to be spiritually courageous to say to the world and others that, "No, God is more important, and today we are going to worship as a family, or Bible study, prayer, etc." All of these things our kids need from us as the family, especially in this day and age. Be courageous brothers and sisters, God will honor that and work it all out. Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter article and if you ever need a hug this big ole teddy bear has one for you!

Blessings,  
Josh

Dad Jokes with Josh:  
My daughter asked me, "Daddy, can you put my shoes on?"  
I said, "I don't think they're going to fit me."



# Update from Grace Covenant Ministries

*“Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’” – Matthew 25:37-40 (NLT)*

Over the years, our community has been blessed by volunteer work groups who have made needed repairs to homes. As important as the repairs were made, it was the difference in the lives of the people who received the blessings. Expressions like “We have never seen such kindness before” and “We will never forget the love they shared with our family.”

We still have some volunteering opportunities available for the current year. We want to thank you for your generosity and support. We feel blessed to have you as our partners in our ministry efforts. If you wish to receive more information about dates and types of available projects, please get in touch with our office (phone 606-364-5151) or contact Stephanie Soderstrom, RCA Global Mission’s coordinator for short-term mission by calling 616-541-0899 or emailing [ssoderstrom@rca.org](mailto:ssoderstrom@rca.org).





# Join Our Jungle Journey!

## FRC VBS June 2-5

Sunday, June 2 (4pm-8pm) / Mon-Wed, June 3-5 (5:30-8:30)

At VBS, kids will sail along on a fun jungle cruise, stopping at seven ports of call. These ports are the 7 C's of History: Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, and Consummation. Kids will discover how these events shape our world, and how to reconnect the Bible to their everyday life.

**Student and Volunteer Registration is now open! Sign Up TODAY!!**

Scan this QR  
Code to signup  
to **Volunteer** for  
**VBS!!!**



Scan this QR  
Code to **register**  
**your student/s**  
for **VBS!!!**



**Or Visit the Following Websites:**

Volunteer: <https://sibleyfrc.myanswers.com/jungle-journey/volunteer/>

Registration: <https://sibleyfrc.myanswers.com/jungle-journey/register/?sitehist=1712544483969>

Call/Text Jenna Ver Steeg  
(507-360-0748) or  
Hannah Lucas (461-1652)  
with questions or for  
more information.

