



# The Newsletter

May 2025

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



## Class of 2025

### Congrats Seniors!

Sibley-Ocheyedan High School

Commencement: May 18 at 2:00 pm



### May at a Glance

- 4-10: Josh will be gone for Residency in AZ
- 11: Communion Prep Sunday
- 12: 6:00 pm Elder & Deacon Meetings  
7:00 pm Full Consistory will meet
- 14: 2:00pm FRC is in charge of Nursing Home Services
- 18: 2:00 pm Commencement for Sibley-Ocheyedan High School
- 19: 9:30 am Faith Bible Study  
3:00 pm Patience Bible Study

#### **\*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 break for the summer. See you in the fall!

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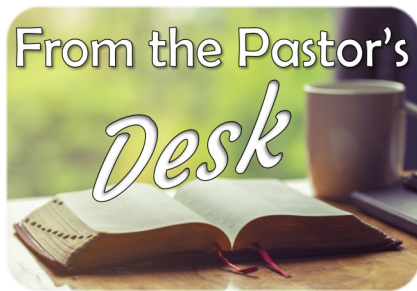
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## How to Ask for a Change

In a recent sermon I talked about how Christians are to handle interpersonal conflict, especially where one party has sinned against the other. But that's not the only kind of conflict that emerges in our common life together. What about the frictions that arise as the leaders of a church attempt to lead it in a certain direction, but there are some who disagree with the direction or an individual decision made by leadership? There is a way to go about doing that which preserves peace and good order.

One of the favorite verses that marks the Reformed and Presbyterian churches is 1 Corinthians 14:40, which says, "Let all things be done decently and in order." This verse really defines how we do worship and how we govern the church. We abhor chaos in the life of the church. God does not want anarchy among his people. Disordered churches rarely thrive and usually give the Devil multiple opportunities to cause havoc among God's people.

Presbyterian and Reformed churches have a very well-defined power structure which is taken straight from the New Testament. In this system, there are two kinds of elders. Teaching elders (i.e. pastors) are responsible for the ministry of the Word and the administration of the sacraments. Usually we also direct or run the meetings of the elders and deacons. In some circumstances we can vote to break a tie, though the widespread counsel given among ministers is, "Never, ever do that!" If something is so controversial that there is a tie vote, the church is in all likelihood in deep division and it is not the time to be making decisions. In 30 years of ministry I have never cast a vote in a local church.

We pastors have other kinds of influence, but it is only influence. Our formal, constitutional power is over the ministry of Word and Sacrament. So even if I wanted to (and believe me, I don't!) I couldn't come to a new church and begin unilaterally making changes to suit me. Conversely, nobody is allowed to tell me how or what to preach on, and the right administration of baptism and the Lord's Supper are under my authority, so long as I am practicing them in a way that's in accord with our constitution and doctrinal standards.

Ruling elders are responsible for the spiritual wellbeing of the members of a church. Theirs is a ministry of spiritual oversight, care, teaching, and if necessary, discipline. They are also responsible to see that the worship of the church and what is taught in the church are in accord with the constitutional and doctrinal standards that everyone in the church swore a vow to uphold and be guided by. Therefore, the ruling elders ought to be the most spiritually mature, wise, discerning members of the church. They should also be deeply committed to the specific doctrinal standards of the church. You shouldn't be an elder or deacon in a Presbyterian or Reformed church if you don't agree with infant baptism or predestination or other Reformed distinctives. You also shouldn't be an officer if there is serious, unaddressed sin in your life. The New Testament qualifications for both elders and deacons are very high. We find them in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. It is the ruling elders who are to make most of the decisions regarding worship, teaching, doctrine, and

discipline. The deacons are traditionally responsible for money, property, and Christian benevolence towards those in need. In most Reformed polity, the elders oversee the deacons, though they ought not to meddle unduly in diaconal business.

Now, it is inevitable that the elders or the deacons will make decisions that some in the congregation don't support. That's just how life works. So what happens next? Well, let's start with what doesn't happen. Nobody gets to start squawking and trying to undo the decision by recruiting factions and taking direct action. As an individual church member (even if you've been an elder or deacon in the past) you simply don't have that authority. It is also terribly destructive to the fabric of the church over time because nobody will want to serve in leadership. And if they do serve, they will be apathetic. Why? Because any decision that is made will get undone within 3 or 4 days, everyone will be riled up. Some will be angry at the elders or the deacons. You give up at least one night a month to go to an hours long meeting for three solid years when there are other things you could be doing. Nobody is paying you. You do it because you care about the church, and this is how you get treated. Why would anyone volunteer for such a task? Why spend hours in a meeting deliberating on the wisest course of action only to have your decisions criticized, second guessed, and repeatedly undone by people who aren't in power, don't have any legitimate authority, and just want something different? Or even worse, want OTHER people to do something different even though they themselves aren't involved and don't plan to participate or lift a finger.. None of this is good.

If you disagree with a decision by the elders or deacons, there is a simple, respectful, polite way to register your disagreement and ask them to reconsider their decision. It's entirely possible they weren't in possession of all the facts at the time of the decision, or didn't foresee some impact on another area they hadn't considered. Not to mention that you might be the one who is not in possession of all the facts. Instead of assuming that they are ignorant idiots who are out to make your life miserable, give them the courtesy of assuming good will and a lack of relevant information.

Write a brief, respectful, polite letter outlining your understanding of the decision, and why you think it might not be the best decision. Then suggest an alternative course of action. Give that letter to me or your shepherding elder. We will either take it up at our next scheduled meeting, or if things are time sensitive, we can call an unscheduled meeting to consider the issue. Maybe you will get your way. Maybe you won't. Maybe there is an as-yet-undiscovered third way that takes everyone's concerns into account. But you will be heard. Your concerns will be discussed.

Being an officer in a Reformed or Presbyterian church is a very high calling and a difficult duty. We should be grateful for our elders and deacons. We should pray for them and for the consistory as it does its work. We should be respectful and as deferential as we can be to their authority. As Hebrews 13:17 says, "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with Joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."

### Praise and Worship Greeters

- 4: E: Hugh Schiphoff  
C: Lynn Schram  
W: Dan and Marueen Heilman/family
- 11: E: Verlyn and Donna Smidt  
C: Karen Stevenson  
W: Dave and Lesa Stofferan
- 18: E: Ken and Sharalyn Tjaden  
C: Greg Tracy/family  
W: Randy Van De Berg
- 25: E: Duane and Pam Vande Hoef  
C: Paul Vander Linden  
W: Collin and Lexi Van Diepen/family

### Worship Service Nursery

- 4: Laurel and Natalie Klaassen  
11: Anne Maxwell & Laura Carpenter  
18: Pam Vande Hoef and Jenny Weg  
25: Abby and Joselyn DeZeeuw

### Fellowship Coffee Servers

- 4: Leona Meendering and Joanne Klaassen  
11: Dave and Lesa Stofferan  
18: Larry and Rhonda Riebeling  
25: Larry and Rhonda Riebeling

### Library Volunteers



- 4: Kathy/Joel Verdoorn  
11: Ruth Ann Wiersma  
18: Gert Gaalswyk  
25: Jan Henrichs

### Willing Hands Group



**Group #5**  
will be responsible for  
services during the month.

**Co-chairpersons are:**

- Dar/Dennis Jurgens
- Deb/Greg Kusters

### Children & Worship during the service



Children and Worship  
is on break until fall

Faith  
is like  
WiFi



It's invisible,  
but it has the power  
to connect you  
to what you need.





## Stewardship & Giving

### Offering Summary through April 26:

- **General Fund: \$123,426.31**  
Budget: \$363,794.52; 33% of budget
  - **Benevolent Fund: \$5184.64**  
Budget: \$62,125; 8% of budget
  - **Building Fund offerings to date: \$670**
- \*\*\*\*\*

**Average Monthly Offering Needed:**  
**\$35,493.29**

**Total Ben./Gen. Offerings through April 26:**  
**\$27,333.71**

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

## Special Offering for May Radiate Haiti!!



## Faith In Action for May:

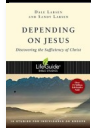
### VBS Sign-Ups

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!!

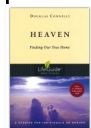


## Numbers Trivia Time!!

1. Who is the clan of the Levite tribe responsible for carrying the curtains and covering of the tabernacle when they move about the desert?
2. Who said: "Ride up, Lord! May your enemies be scattered; may your foes flee before you."
3. Who said: "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it."
4. Who led a rebellion against Moses and Aaron but ended up "swallowed" by the earth?
5. Who assisted Moses in leading the Israelites, then died and was buried at Kadesh, in the Desert of Zin?
6. Who said: "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?"
7. Who was Baal of Peor? (Son of King Sihon, King of Moab, A false god, Balaam's servant)
8. Who said: "What have you done to me? I brought you to curse my enemies, but you have done nothing but bless them!"
9. Aaron set up the lampstand in the temple according to the instructions God had given. Of what material was the lampstand made? (Gold, Silver, Bronze, Brass)
10. Who said: "God is not human, that he should lie or change his mind. Does he promise and not fulfill?"



**Faith Bible Study**, will meet on **Monday, May 19 at 9:30 am**. We will be studying lesson #9, "Empathy Within Faltering" in our study book *Depending on Jesus*. Scripture will be Hebrews 4:14-5:10. Leader will be Jan Henrichs and Jeannette will serve as hostess. All are invited! If you would like to join, please let us know! Hope to see you there!



**Patience Bible Study**, will meet on **Monday, May 19 at 3:00 pm**. We will be studying lesson #1 "The Real Jesus," in our book *Meeting Jesus*. Scripture for the lesson is Mark 1:9-45. Barb will lead and Lois will serve as hostess. Come for a time of fellowship and learning. If you would like to join our new study, please contact Barb Van Diepen and we will get you a book.

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

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

\*FRC Fellowship Hall

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

This group is currently studying the book of **John**.

\*FRC Fireside Room\*

## Happy Mother's Day

to all women...



yearning to  
be moms



who are new  
moms



who have  
never had a  
mom



who have  
lost  
children



who are fur  
moms



who are  
mother  
figures



who have  
lost their  
moms



who are moms



who are bonus  
moms



Meeting  
Minutes

Consistory  
Did Not Meet  
in April



# Celebrations

## ~~Birthday's~~

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



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

## ~~Anniversaries~~

- |                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| 7 Mark and Angela De Boer | 54 years |
| 9 Travis and Jill Boeke   | 16 years |
| 10 Dave and Sandy Lamfers | 45 years |
| 27 Dale and Karen Honken  | 42 years |
| 28 Troy and Meggan Block  | 20 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

BE A  
*Prayer*  
WARRIOR

## Our Missionaries

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

Helen Vander Veen

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## PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

- |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. LaVon Dykstra                  | 16. Russ Gaalswyk; Alexis         |
| 2. Mark and Tanya Dykstra; Makya  | 17. Pray for our College Students |
| 3. Pray for our College Students  | 18. Pray for our Church           |
| 4. Pray for our Church            | 19. Eugene and Renae Groen        |
| 5. Ron and Nancy Dykstra          | 20. Bob and Janice Groen          |
| 6. Scott and Marlys Dykstra       | 21. Clark Haken                   |
| 7. Trudy Dykstra                  | 22. Ed and Jan Harskamp           |
| 8. Luella Eggink                  | 23. Bill and LaDonn Hartzell      |
| 9. Jon and Amy Elser; Maverick    | 24. Pray for our College Students |
| 10. Pray for our College Students | 25. Pray for our Church           |
| 11. Pray for our Church           | 26. Wilma Hatting                 |
| 12. Anita Ernst                   | 27. Kevin and Twila Heemstra      |
| 13. Mim Ernst                     | 28. Dwayne and Janice Heikes      |
| 14. Paul Feldkamp                 | 29. Burt and Jan Henrichs         |
| 15. Gert Gaalswyk                 | 30. Derek and Ashley Heronimus    |
|                                   | 31. Pray for our College Students |

<b><u>College Students:</u></b>			
Grace Beavers	Marissa Ackerman	MacKenzie Beyer	Carter Brouwer
Michael Block Jr.	Halle Block	Teddy Van Gelder	Andrea Leusink
Ella Bruxvoort	Tayler Bremer		
Aiden De Zeeuw	Madison Brouwer		
	Regan Crichton		Grant Brouwer
	Keegan De Zeeuw		Ryan Van Marel
	Makya Dykstra		
	Maverick Elser		
	Jared Kruger		
	Emma Langstraat		
	Matthew McDougall		
	Gannon Rockman		

# *Congratulations*



*Elliot Joseph Daiker*

*~~Son of the late Brian Daiker and Jamiey and Tony Bevers~~*

I plan to attend Iowa State University in Ames to pursue a degree in Aerospace Engineering.

My favorite church/faith memory was hiking up the different paths at Rocky Mountain High, especially at 5:00 in the morning.

*Cole Michael Dykstra*

*~~Son of Cory and Amy Dykstra~~*

I plan to attend the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls and major in Physical Education and Health.

My favorite church/faith memory is accidentally breaking the TV speaker while playing dodge ball during the middle school lock-in.



*Sofia Lynn Hisek*

*~~Daughter of Heath Hisek and Melissa Hisek~~*

I plan to attend Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA and major in Biomedical Sciences while also playing volleyball.

My favorite church/faith memory is attending Rocky Mountain High



*Alexis Colleen Hulstein*

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

I plan to attend Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, IA to pursue a degree in Radiologic Technology.

My favorite church/faith memories were made while on a Go Serve Mission Trip to Fort Collins, CO where I was able to serve at a local retirement community and hike in the mountains.





## *Alyssa Lynn Jacobsma*

~~Daughter of Jason and Gina Jacobsma~~

I plan to attend the University of Sioux Falls to major in Business Administration and Minor in Marketing.

My favorite church memory would be going to Power Connection and strengthening my faith with my peers.



## *Addysen Joy Langstraat*

~~Daughter of Mark and Melissa Langstraat~~

I plan to attend Minnesota West Community and Technical College for Elementary School Education.

My favorite church/faith memory is going on the Ark Encounter trip while in Middle School Remnant.

## *Parker Bradley Loerts*

~~Son of Brad and Sarah Loerts~~

After graduation from McCrossan Boys Ranch High School in December of 2024, I am currently living in Harrisburg, SD and work for Wilson Trailers.

My favorite church/faith memory is the Middle School Remnant Lock-in.



## *Kaylee Marie Maxwell*

~~Daughter of Cory and Anne Maxwell~~

I plan to attend Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, IA for their Radiologic Technology Program.

My favorite church/faith memory was being able to go to Rocky Mountain High with the High School Remnant Youth Group.

## To the Parents of High School Seniors...

Wasn't it just yesterday that you put a piece of your heart on a bus and watched them drive away to their first day of school?

Wasn't it just yesterday that you were adjusting to your babies suddenly being old enough to drive?

Wasn't it just yesterday you were stepping into spaces of conversations about what the future might look like for them as a young adult?

And now, here you are, the finish line in sight.

The final semester coming to an end.

College decisions and career goals being finalized.

Plans for the future slowly becoming solidified.

You knew this part would be bittersweet but you probably didn't know this part would be filled with so much waiting...

Waiting for decisions.

Waiting for more insight.

Waiting for the next steps.

Waiting to see what comes next.

Waiting to say goodbye.

and so much wondering...

Wondering if you have done enough.

Wondering if you have done too much.

Wondering if you should have pushed harder.

Wondering if you pushed too hard.

Wondering if they are making the right choice.

Wondering if anyone even knows the right choice.

Wondering who they will be.

Wondering who you will be.

But all of this waiting and wondering is what you've done for the past 18 years, right?

And it's probably what you'll always keep doing.

Because they will always be your baby -

even when they walk across that stage and close the book on their high school experience.

You'll always see them as how they are in that moment, how they might be in the future, and how they were in the past.

All versions wrapped up into one amazing human.







## 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 1-4!!

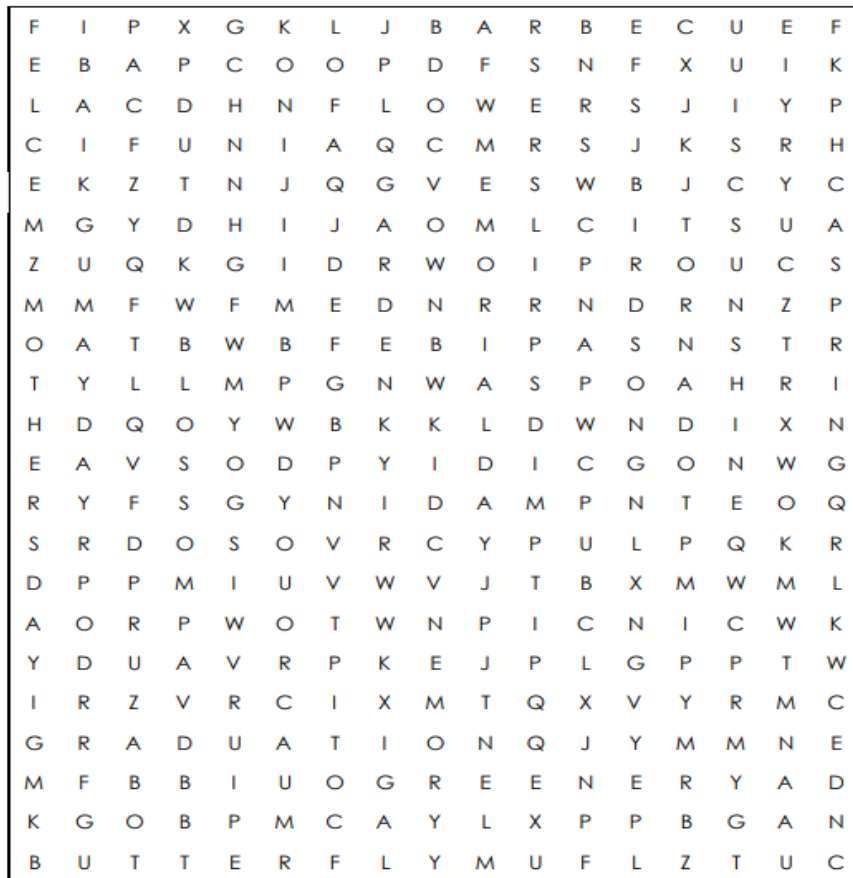


## *Congratulations* *College Graduates*

- **Andrea Leusink** will be graduating from Beuna Vista University on May 3. This fall she will be attending graduate school at the University of Iowa in their Library Information Sciences department. Andrea is pursuing a career as an Archivist.
- **Jared Kruger** will be graduating from North-east Iowa Community College on May 15 with an Associate of Applied Science degree in their John Deere Tech Program. Jared will be working for C&B Operations following graduation.
- **Matthew McDougall** will be graduating from Iowa Lakes Community College on May 9 with a degree in Farm Equipment and Diesel Technology. Matthew will be working for C&B Operations in Spencer, IA.

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

# May Word Search



MOTHER'S DAY

MEMORIAL DAY

PICNIC

BARBECUE

GRADUATION

SUNSHINE

SPRING

BUTTERFLY

FLOWERS

BIRDSONG

MAY DAY

GREENERY

BLOSSOM

TORNADO

GARDEN



## May Word Scramble

1. CCINO DE YAOM \_\_\_\_\_

2. SENST \_\_\_\_\_

3. GNPLNTIA \_\_\_\_\_

4. RAFILNAL \_\_\_\_\_

5. OENEHBEY \_\_\_\_\_

6. SIPGNR \_\_\_\_\_

7. IEVEHBE \_\_\_\_\_

8. OTNPEILAL \_\_\_\_\_

9. THEMRSO ADY \_\_\_\_\_

10. UIPLT \_\_\_\_\_

11. OMIMERSE \_\_\_\_\_

12. EAMRIMLO \_\_\_\_\_

13. IMNUDBGMIHR \_\_\_\_\_

14. ETZIFLIRER \_\_\_\_\_

15. MLOSOSBS \_\_\_\_\_

16. IDOLFFDA \_\_\_\_\_

17. LFOARL \_\_\_\_\_

18. ENWTEGIT \_\_\_\_\_



## We did it!

In May of 2022, RCA Global Mission announced a special project to raise \$85,000 to provide faith-based trauma healing, reconciliation, and social cohesion training for South Sudanese refugees living in refugee camps in Uganda.

Why? Because the people of South Sudan have been suffering for far too long. Because global programs to care for the people of South Sudan continued to be some of the most underfunded humanitarian aid programs in the world. Because South Sudan is where RCA Global Mission began missional engagement on the continent of Africa almost 77 years ago. [At the time, Sudan and South Sudan were still one country.] Because God loves the people of South Sudan...and so does RCA Global Mission.

Our goal was to raise \$85,000 in one year. We knew it was a lofty goal, especially at a time when so many groups of people worldwide were suffering due to violent conflict, persecution, natural disasters, and other situations that have led to mass death and displacement.

But we believed it was faithful. We didn't meet our goal, but persisted by extending our goal to raise \$85,000 for a second year, with a final push of inviting churches to take a special offering for World Refugee Sunday so that we could meet our goal by the end of June 2024. As we waited for the final number to come in through the end of June/beginning of July, I was pretty sure that we'd meet our goal.

But, to my surprise and delight, more donations came in throughout the summer and beyond, and I'm delighted to share with you that, thanks to the generous support of 25 churches and 79 individuals and families, we raised almost \$116,000!

In November 2024, RECONCILE, Int. used part of these funds to host a 4-day training for 102 South Sudanese refugees living in the Rhino refugee camps in Uganda. This training focused on trauma awareness and trauma healing, reconciliation, and social cohesion (among those living in the camps and between the refugees and native Ugandans in their communities).

Tut was one of the participants. Here's what Tut says about his experience attending this training: *"I witnessed my only son killed. He was shot seven times. I want to thank God that I have been able to forgive those who killed my son. I forgave them and I am relieved. This teaching by RECONCILE is refreshing and healing to my spirit. How I wish that every South Sudanese could get access to this teaching...my life is changed."*

Friends, this is the power of God at work in this broken and hurting world. This is the power of Christ followers living out the biblical mandate to care for the stranger, the foreigner, the sojourner... the orphan, the widow...those in need of healing and hope.

### **Don't Forget About South Sudan and Her People**

I was blessed to spend some time with my friend and colleague, Shelvis Smith-Mather, at the RCA Global Mission 2025 Conference in January. Shelvis and his wife, Nancy, are joint RCA/PCUSA missionaries, working with the people of South Sudan both in South Sudan and Uganda, and were my partners for this fundraising project.

Shelvis led a dynamic plenary session about the work of our South Sudanese siblings towards peace and reconciliation (and how Christians and the church have played a unique and vital role in these efforts for decades) at Mission 2025. I encourage you to watch Shelvis' plenary session [here](#). [Please note that there is the sound of gunfire from 4:05-5:08 in the recording.]

Shelvis and I talked several times throughout our time together at Mission 2025—encouraging one another, praying for one another, thanking God for the success of our fundraising efforts and the opportunity to share more about South Sudan and the work of RECONCILE, Int. with Mission 2025 participants. But there was also an underlying concern that we shared in our time together: the concern that now that our fundraising project was complete, people would forget about South Sudan and her people.

Hello First Reformed Church,

I am always imagining teaching my kids how to play baseball/softball, acting, or just plain how to minister to people.

These are my gifts and talents, and I wanted so badly to teach those things to my kids so then they too can be like me or even better than me. Until I realized something, my kids, at least at this point of their lives, really are not interested in those things. They are interested in horses, playing dress up, or just wanting to read books. It drove me nuts that MY children would have these tendencies to want to do those things, instead of wanting to play my sports or do the things that I did successfully growing up. Then God directed me to the most important text in the Bible for parents, Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it." The context of this verse is to explain that a parent's number one priority to their kids is to instruct them in the ways of the Lord. This promise, yes, it is a promise, says that if you do this diligently and correctly your children will not depart from the faith. Notice how when we read the passages of Scripture referring to raising children it is not about making sure they play the right sports, in the correct clubs, doing extra curriculars, etc. It is simply, teach them the ways of the Lord and bring them up in the faith.

This is not to say that sports or other activities are not important, because even in the Biblical days parents had to teach a trade of some kind to their children. However, what was the number one priority in the home? It was God. Joshua 24:15, "And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua was speaking about all of the false gods that were being worshipped in households all across the region. It was not a current affair, but it was something that was learned from parents before the time that Joshua was in, but he makes the bold claim that he and his household will not follow after the false gods of the time, but they will follow the Lord and serve the Lord. What does this mean for modern day parents and children? Nothing has changed, parents. The only thing that has changed are the gods. In Joshua's day there were false gods that were being worshipped, but what has taken their place? Sports, activities, school, etc. These things have taken the place of God. This is not the case for all parents, but it is affecting the church, and we need to do something about it. What can be done? Start by telling coaches, teachers, etc. that your children will not be participating in activities on Sundays. If enough students miss activities on Sundays, coaches and others will find another day of the week that works better.

Why is this so important? Because our kids need Jesus desperately. In my next newsletter article, I will go into the studies that have been done about what Christianity does for a teenager's mental health and why, from a Biblical standpoint, it is important. For now, make the step of faith to say that Sunday is a holy day for you and your family and no activities or sports will be done on Sunday except for family time. Thank you all for taking the time to read this article and God bless you all!

Blessings,  
Josh Lucas



#### **Dad Jokes with Josh:**

A sweater I purchased was picking up static electricity, so I returned it.  
He gave another one free of charge.



# Sportsmen's Devotional

**Today's Photograph . . . Do Not Be Tempted To Cut Ethical Corners**

## **Bible Study Verse**

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." (NIV) Mark 7:14-16

## **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!



## **Numbers Trivia Time Answers:**

1. Gershonites (4:24-26) 2. Moses (10:35) 3. Caleb (13:30) 4. Korah (16:1-34) 5. Miriam (20:1)
6. Balaam's donkey (22:28) 7. a false god (25:1-3) 8. Balak (23:11)
9. Gold (8:3-4) 10. Balaam (23:16-19)

## *From the library--*



The books this month are a continuation of the two series started in April: *ONE LAST CHANCE* by Susan May Warren from the series, 'Alaska Air One Rescue #2' is the first book. "Axel Mulligan was built to be a Coast Guard rescue swimmer. He swam fast and endured long, a miracle for those in peril—until a tragedy sent him home to Alaska. Now three years later, he's not going to let the past repeat itself. As an Air One rescue swimmer, he'll do anything to save lives—including his own.

He expects to do just that while trying to rescue a group of tourists from the icy waters of the Gulf of Alaska. If not for the voice on the other end of the ham radio, he might have given up and let hypothermia win. That voice awakened something in his heart, and he sets out to find the woman it belongs to.

Flynn Turnquist is not who Axel thinks she is. A national wildlife researcher, she's deep in the bush, tracking wolf pack patterns. Or is she? In fact, she's a former cop tracking down a serial killer. She nearly had him—until he escaped into the wilds of the Alaskan bush.

When Axel finds Flynn and discovers what she's really up to, it stirs up a terrible nightmare he's been dodging for years—the kidnapping and death of his own cousin. Worse, he led the killer right to Flynn's doorstep. Now, it's a race through Alaska to stay alive. And when tragedy strikes again, he must choose between rescue and redemption."



Next is *COLD THREAT* by Nancy Mehl, book #2 of 'Ryland+St.Clair' series. "Twenty years ago several people were murdered in Des Moines, and the only evidence left behind was a snowman ornament hanging ominously on a tree in the victims' front lawns. With a suspect behind bars, the killing have come to an end—or so everyone thought. But now crimes with a similar MO are happening in a small Iowa town, and a local detective believes the killer is back and ready to strike again.

With little time left on the clock before they have another murder on their hands, private investigators River Ryland and Tony St. Clair must work alongside Tony's detective father to find evidence that will uncover an evil that has survived far too long. As the danger mounts and the suspect closes in, it will take all they have to catch a killer—before he catches one of them.

Jeannette Juffer



## *Random Musings Devotional*

By Brenda Sandbulte

Words are kind of my thing. I love to use them - in writing, in speaking, and in talking (yes, there's a difference between speaking and talking - just look at my elementary report cards with the checkmark

- "talks too much".)

I like the sound of my own voice. I often feel I have something to say, and by heavens, I'm going to share it - whether anyone else wants to listen or not. Just ask Craig - he's had to "listen" for over 40 years.

Jesus used words. Jesus was the Word.

Jesus used words of forgiveness, redemption, wisdom, freedom, correction, obedience, and love. The New Testament, especially the Gospels, focus on Jesus' words. They're written in red so we don't miss them.

So we can't miss them.

So we won't miss them. Ah, there's the rub (an allusion to the Bard - a wordsmith himself.)

Do we think about the words we use? Do I use the filter of my Savior when talking to others?

With all the words I love to use, do I use them to forgive or ask for forgiveness?

Do I speak words that might be hard to say, but the person I'm talking with might need to hear them? I often avoid those difficult conversations because, well, they're hard.

Do my words reflect love when maybe the person on the other side of the conversation isn't very loving at that moment? No, I'd rather use sarcasm than the kind word they need instead.

Are my words wise? Or am I speaking just to hear myself talk? To be honest, probably the latter.

We have to admit that today there are a lot of words flying around - blogs, social media posts, texting, Instagram, SnapChat (not even words, just pictures), maybe a conversation here or there - but are we taking the time to filter them through the Savior's words - the red letters?

Lord, make my conversations today more like Jesus. May my purpose for language be that of extending forgiveness or demonstrating godly wisdom or showing love. May my words align with yours Father. May my words be similar to the red letters I find in my Bible. Make the words I use today glorify your kingdom, your goodness, and your grace. Please make my words matter. Amen.





## VBS Registration is Now Open!!

VBS Dates and Times:

Sunday, June 1 from 4-8pm / Mon-Wed from 5:30-8:30

Please use the below links to sign up your students and to volunteer to help.



Student  
Registration  
QR Code



Volunteer  
to Help  
QR Code

**Registration is open through May 23!!**

## 2025 Annual Men & Boys FRC Fishing Trip



**When:** July 10-13

**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! Contact Dan Heilman, Dave McDyer or Chris Wynia with questions.



Saturday, May 31  
Meet at FRC parking lot  
at 4:00 pm

Sponsored by the Outreach Ministry Team