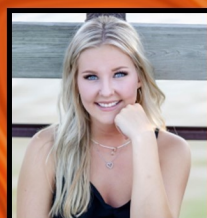
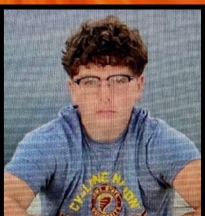
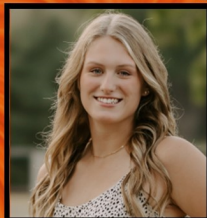


# The Newsletter

May 2023

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

## Class of 2023 Congrats Seniors!



Sibley-Ocheyedan High School  
Commencement: May 14 at 2:00 pm

George-Little Rock High School  
Commencement: May 14 at 2:00 pm

### May at a Glance

- 3: Last HS Remnant -- Senior Night
- 8: 6:00pm Elder & Deacon Meetings  
7:00pm Full Consistory will meet
- 14: Graduation Sunday
- 15: 9:30 am Faith Bible Study
  - 3:00 pm Patience Bible Study
- 17: 5:30-7:30 pm Flower Sale and Grill out sponsored by MS Remnant
- 21: Communion Sunday
  - 4:00 pm Prayer Walk
- 30: Last Sunday School for 2022-2023

#### \*Sundays:

- 9:00 am Praise and Worship Service
- Sunday School is on break until fall
- 10 am Coffee Fellowship Time

#### \*Tuesdays:

- 8:30 am Quilting Chicks will meet

\*Wednesday Evening Bible Classes and Youth Groups are on break until fall

CONTACT INFORMATION:  
712-754-2783

sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com  
www.sibleyfrc.org





## Stewardship & Giving

### Offering Summary through April 24:

- **General Fund: \$ 106,914.84**  
Budget: \$340,984.97; 31% of budget
- **Benevolent Fund: \$9,286.17**  
Budget: \$70,205.23; 13% of budget
- **Building Fund offerings to date: \$835;**  
**soundboard updates: \$6000**

## 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!!



## Consistory Meeting Highlights April 10, 2023



### Meeting Minutes

- MMSA to approve Josh Lucas coming under care of Consistory while he finishes his M.Div degree.
- MMSA to revert back to the traditional phasing of the Apostle's Creed by replacing Holy Christian Church with Holy Catholic Church.\*\*

*\*\*The reason the consistory has decided to return to the original wording is basically threefold.*

- 1) The word catholic best expresses what we are saying when we are talking about the universal body of Christ that is the church. It derives from the Greek word kathlikos meaning "universal" and from the adverbial phrase kath' holou meaning "on the whole".*
- 2) The word catholic does not mean Roman Catholic*
- 3) The consistory felt that a return to what we know and understand to traditional language was a good idea*



# GROWING IN THE WORD

SCOTT BROWN  
WOMEN OF THE  
OLD TESTAMENT



**Faith Bible Study**, will meet on **Monday, May 15 at 9:30 am**. We will be studying chapter #12 “The Model Wife” in our book *Women of the Old Testament*. Scripture will be Proverbs 31:10-31. Luella Eggink will be leader and Imogene Rasmussen will serve as hostess. All are invited! Hope to see you there!

BRIAN COLEMAN  
SEVEN LETTERS TO  
SEVEN CHURCHES



**Patience Bible Study**, will meet on **Monday, May 15 at 3:00 pm**. We will be studying lesson #7 “Find Us Faithful,” in our book *Seven Letters to Seven Churches*. Scripture for the lesson is Revelation 3:7-13. Barb will lead and serve as hostess. 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!*



### **Young Adult Bible Study Opportunity**

All young adult singles and married couples are invited to the Lucas farm Sundays at 6pm to enjoy a time of Fellowship and Bible Study.  
For more information please contact Josh or Hannah Lucas.



## **DISCERNMENT UPDATE**

An update on the work that Consistory, and others, are doing as Sibley FRC faces the challenges surrounding our membership in the RCA. This is a big decision so the Consistory planned a 40-Week Discernment process that would be finished in time for the fall congregational meeting.

Two teams were commissioned to help with the research needed to make an informed decision. The RCA Research Team, led by Ken Loerts, is investigating the strengths and weakness of the RCA. Their assignment is to make a recommendation to Consistory about why we should stay, or why we should leave. The Denominational Selection Team, led by Kevin Klassen, is investigating what denominations we should consider joining if we decide to leave.

Both groups have met over the past two months and are reporting back to the Consistory each month on the progress being made. The goal is to be ready in the late summer, or early fall, to have recommendations for the Consistory to consider. The ultimate goal is to be ready to present to the congregation at the fall meeting the outcomes of this work.

The Consistory and the work groups need your prayers and your patience as they work through this challenge.

## Praise and Worship Greeters

- 7: E: Joanne Klaassen  
C: Kevin and Laurel Klaassen  
W: Dr. Greg and Deb Kusters
- 14: E: Mitch and Abby Kreykes/family  
C: Pam Kruger  
W: Tim and Jodie Kruger/family
- 21: E: Jodene Kruse  
C: Dave and Sandy Lamfers  
W: Arnie and Diane Langstraat
- 28: E: Mark and Melissa Langstraat/family  
C: Brad and Sarah Loerts/family  
W: Brian and Megan Loerts/family



## Worship Service Nursery

- 7: Sandy Lamfers and Rachel Wills  
14: Karen Honken and Karissa Hulstein  
21: Kira Christensen and Pam Vande Hoef  
28: Maureen and Amelia Heilman

## Fellowship Coffee Servers



- 7: Greg and Deb Kusters  
14: Scott and Jamie Hulstein  
21: Dave and Sandy Lamfers  
28: Ken and Wilma Loerts

## Children & Worship during the service



**Children & Worship  
is on Break  
until Fall**

## Willing Hands Group



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

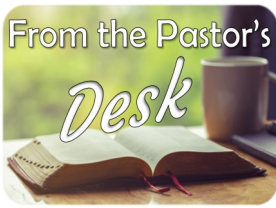
### Co-chairpersons are:

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

## Library Volunteers



- 7: Marilyn De Boer  
14: Gert Gaalswyk  
21: Jan Henrichs  
28: Jamie Hulstein



## Justice God's Way

This week while reading some passages in Isaiah I was struck by chapter 58. Please read it out loud at some point this week. Could it be that this is God's word to us today?

The words are directed against a group described as self-righteous and meticulous in their religious observances. The group's members engage in theological study, they say they desire to get closer to God, they even fast. According to the prophetic voice of the passage it is all a sham. They exhibit hypocritical acts that fail to meet the test of true worship.

***...as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; (vs. 2)***

The problem is not that these people are unreligious, that would be easy to condemn. The problem is that they are hyper-correct in their religious observance, they exhibit their piety for all to see, but in their exercise of religion they miss the essential point, God's order of compassionate justice. God's word spoken through the prophet indicts this group for their rebellion and their sins.

***...Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,  
and oppress all your workers. (vs. 3)***

These religionists have memorized all the conventional forms of religion. They bow their heads. They lie in sackcloth and ashes. They fast. God remains unimpressed.

***Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? (vs. 5)***

The severity of the prophetic attack upon self-serving, dehumanizing religion is marked by the wonderful fast that is acceptable to God.

***Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?***

***Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin? (vss. 6-7)***

In this community, those who regarded themselves as the most religious had converted religion into a private thing, leaving social relationships and commerce under the rule of ruthless self-serving exploitation. Isaiah reaffirms the understanding that God does not desire ritualistic religion but a heart that breaks for others who experience injustice.

*Prayer: O Sovereign Lord may our acts of worship be authentic. Forgive us for pursuing our own interests and trampling the Sabbath. Help us to take delight in you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

Carry On,  
Pastor Troy

# A TIME TO STUDY & REFLECT



I hope that you have taken the time to attend Pastor Troy's classes on the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. It is good to study what we believe and why we believe it. It is essential to everyone at Sibley FRC because we are trying to decide if we should continue to remain members of the RCA or if we leave where we should go. Both teams established by the Consistory are looking at the confessional standards of our denomination, and the others are open to us.

Whatever denominations and confessions we consider, we have to have a way to decide if they are valid or not. The Reformed tradition has always been to stand with scripture's clear teachings first and consider other influences afterward. Do you remember what Martin Luther said to the Diet of Worms when asked to recant his writings?

***"My conscience is captive to the Word of God. Thus I cannot and will not recant, because acting against one's conscience is neither safe nor sound. Here I stand; I can do no other. God help me."***

During the Reformation, the doctrine of *Sola Scriptura* was a significant reason for the separation from the Roman Catholic church. The Catholic church (then and now) think other sources of knowledge are equal to, and maybe superior to, the Bible.

We may not have a Pope to listen to, but plenty of other voices tell us we don't have to believe what the Bible says. Over the past two years, I have written about many of them, so let me quickly recap the list.

- The Five Horsemen of Atheism: Freud, Marx, Nietzsche, Darwin, Schleiermacher
- Liberal and Neo-Orthodox theologians inside the church who begin their theology with a doctrine that does not include classic inerrancy and infallibility of scripture.
- Cultural Leaders – Celebrities, politicians, social influencers, and other religions.
- Satan (*and ourselves*) when we say or act out, *"Did God actually say?"*

I know I sound like a broken record; by that, I mean an old vinyl LP. But what we believe about the Bible is ESSENTIAL. If the Bible is God's inerrant and infallible word, then everything in it is to be believed – including the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and his atonement for sin. But, if we say it is only *'sorta' true*, then we can throw out what we do not want. Then it is no problem for us to go our own way when someone says, *"Did God actually say?"*

***Anyone who would like a copy of the Belgic Confession, Heidelberg Catechism and Canons of Dort let me know and I will make sure you receive one***

# INERRANCY AND INFALLIBILITY OF SCRIPTURE

We are taught that our Bible is ‘inerrant’ and ‘infallible’. However, this doctrine is under attack both inside and outside the church. According to the State of Theology 2022 findings, adults are more and more rejecting the divine origin of the Bible. This survey has been conducted every two years since 2014. When asked to respond to this statement *“The Bible, like all sacred writings, contains helpful accounts of ancient myths but is not literally true.”* in 2014 41% of adults agreed with the statement, while in 2022 the number grew to 53%. <https://thestateoftheology.com>

But, according to the Reformed Confessions, the Word of God was given to us by the Holy Spirit—the third person of the Trinity—and is without error. Go read Article 7 of the Belgic Confession. It begins with ***“We believe that those Holy Scriptures fully contain the will of God, and that whatsoever man ought to believe unto salvation is sufficiently taught therein.”*** The confessions depend on scripture for their doctrines. Here are four of the many verses that teach the origin and infallibility of scripture.

- *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,” 2 Timothy 3:16*
- *“And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” Peter 1:19–21*
- *“Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.” Proverbs 30:5*
- *“so faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” Romans 10:17*

***Let us, like Luther, believe every word in the Bible and then stand on it!***

Topic	Belgic Confession—1561	Westminster Confession—1647
Revelation	Article 2 <i>By What Means God is Made Known to Us</i>	I Section 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 When 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>	I Sections 2 –10 <i>Of the Holy Scripture</i>



## PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

1. Rod Hulstein
2. Mike and Mary Hustoft
3. Roger and Carol Iedema
4. Jason and Gina Jacobsma; Alyssa, Breanna
5. Kay Jansen
6. Pray for our College Students
7. Pray for our Church
8. Merlyn and Julie Janssen
9. Ashley Johnson; Jagger, Alexis
10. Jeannette Juffer
11. John and Jan Juffer
12. Alan and Lacey Julius; Witten, Sayla
13. Pray for our College Students
14. Pray for our Church
15. Dennis and Dar Jurgens
16. Ethel Jurgens
17. Karen Jurgens
18. Dianne Kass
19. Clint and Jamie Klaassen; Haley, Colt, Katie
20. Pray for our College Students
21. Pray for our Church
22. Joanne Klaassen
23. Kevin and Laurel Klaassen
24. David and Donna Kleinwolterink
25. Dr. Greg and Deb Kusters
26. Laurie Kraayenbrink
27. Pray for our College Students
28. Pray for our Church
29. Mitch and Abby Kreykes; Dawson, Paisley
30. Martha Krikke
31. Charlie and Katha Kruger

### College Students:

Mackenzie Beyer  
Kaden Maxwell  
Teddy Van Gelder

Carter Brouwer  
Andrea Leusink  
Tyler Feldkamp

Dalten Bremer  
Ashilyn Hulstein  
Natalie Klaassen

Grant Brouwer  
Ryan Van Marel

### Trivia Time!!

1. Why did Christ use parables when teaching?
2. What is a parable?
3. In the parable of the good Samaritan, what was Christ trying to teach?
4. In the same parable, what was the significance of the one who helped being a Samaritan?
5. In the parable of the sower, what did the seeds that fell on the way side represent?
6. In that same parable, what did the seeds that fell in the stony places represent?
7. In that same parable, what did the seeds that fell in thorny places represent?
8. What did the seeds that fell in on the good soil represent?
9. In the parable of the ten virgins, what was Jesus trying to teach?
10. In that parable, what did the unprepared virgins not bring?



BE A  
*Prayer*  
WARRIOR

# Grace Covenant Ministries

# PRAYER JOURNAL

# *Congratulations!* *Class Of* 2023



***Marissa Evelyn Ackerman***

*~~Daughter of Charlie and Brenda Ackerman~~*

I plan to attend South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD to pursue a degree in Exercise Science. My favorite church memory is attending Power Connection in Lawrence, KS with my youth group in 2018.

***Halle Marie Block***

*~~Daughter of Troy and Meggan Block~~*

I plan to attend Iowa State University in Ames, IA and major in Interior Design. My favorite church memory is attending Power Connection while in Middle School.



***Tayler Mae Bremer***

*~~Daughter of Randy Bremer and Daphne Bremer~~*

I plan to attend South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD and major in Agriculture Business. My favorite church memory is attending camp at Inspiration Hills.

***Madison Jean Brouwer***

*~~Daughter of Jerrad and Tracee Brouwer~~*

I plan to attend the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD and major in Dental Hygiene. I will also be running for the cross country and track and field teams. My favorite church memory is going to Worthington and spreading the Gospel along with kindness to random people.



***Regan James Crichton***

*~~Son of Karla Crichton and Travis Crichton~~*

I plan to attend Iowa Lakes Community College in Estherville to get my Generals and to also play baseball. My favorite church memory is going to Texas on the Mission Trip.

***Keegan Lyle De Zeeuw***

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

I plan to attend Central College in Pella, IA and major in Engineering. My favorite church memory is when Josh got pulled over by a police officer on the way home from the Louisiana Mission Trip.





## *Makya Janae Dykstra*

*~~Daughter of Mark and Tanya Dykstra~~*

I plan to attend Michell Technical College in Mitchell, SD and study Radiology Technology. My favorite church memory was attending Power Connection and having the toilet flood the bathroom in Madison and my room.

## *Maverick Jon Elser*

*~~Son of Jon and Amy Elser~~*

I plan to attend the University of Nebraska Lincoln in Lincoln, NE where I will be studying biochemistry. My favorite church memory is having fun being a wise man in the Christmas program.



## *Jared Thomas Kruger*

*~~Son of Tim and Jodie Kruger~~*

I plan to attend Northeast Iowa Community College in Calmar, IA and major in John Deere Diesel Mechanical Technician. My favorite church memory is participating in the Food Find every year.

## *Emma Kay Langstraat*

*~~Daughter of Mark and Melissa Langstraat~~*

I plan to attend South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD where I will be doing an exploratory health sciences program. My favorite church memory is going to Power Connection with my youth group.



## *Matthew John McDougall*

*~~Son of John and Kim McDougall~~*

I plan to attend Iowa Lakes Community College for Farm Equipment and Diesel Technology. My favorite church memory is Josh Calling an 8 foot trailer "big."

## *Gannon Kennth Rockman*

*~~Son of Daren Rockman and Amy Vos~~*

I plan to attend Iowa State University in Ames, IA to pursue a degree in Sales and Marketing. My favorite church memory is going on a mission trip through Samaritan's Purse.



## *Avery Mae Zylstra*

*~~Daughter of Jenny Timmer and Aaron Zylstra~~*

I plan to attend Northwest Iowa Community College to get my General Education courses and then transfer to Buena Vista College in Storm Lake and major in Elementary Education.



## Education Schedule:

Sunday School is on break until fall.

MS Remnant is on break until fall.

HS Remnant will have its last youth group on May 3.



## *Congratulations* *College Graduates*

- **Ryan Van Marel** graduated from South Dakota State University this past December and will continue his education toward his Masters Degree this fall.
- **Leah Ackerman** will be graduating from Southeast Technical College (STI) in Sioux Falls, SD with a Veterinary Technician degree. She plans to work at Horizon Pet Care in Brandon, South Dakota.
- **Grant Brouwer** will be graduating from Dordt University and has been accepted to Des Moines University to pursue a Doctorate of Podiatric Medicine.
- **Tanner Dykstra** will be graduating with honors from the University of Nebraska Lincoln in Lincoln, NE with a double Major in Journalism and Broadcasting and a double Minor in Film Studies and Political Science. Tanner plans to continue working at Nebraska Public Media (public tv/radio) as a reporter.
- **Alex McDougall** will be graduating from Iowa State University with a degree in Agriculture and Life Sciences Education with an Agronomy minor. This fall she will be teaching at Humboldt Community High School.
- **Austin Wassman** will graduate from Minnesota West in Worthington, MN with a degree in Ag Production. Austin plans to continue working at Cooperative Farmers Elevator (CFE) in Ocheyedan.
- **Logan Bruxvoort** will graduate from Minnesota West in Jackson, MN with a degree in Welding. His future plans include working as a sales rep at Graham Tire, Farm Labor for a local farmer, and Welding as a side job.

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



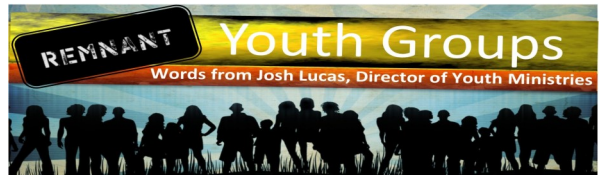
Hello First Reformed Church,

By the time this is posted we have finished our year, but there is something that I wanted to share with all of you. This past year we did a couple of different things in youth group. On Wednesday night in Middle School, we went through the book “The Pilgrim’s Progress.” We did this with the thought and hope that at the end of the year we would show the movie that was made based off of the movie. If you don’t know anything about The Pilgrim’s Progress let me give you some background on the book. It’s an allegory that was written by Pastor John Bunyan in the 1600s while he was imprisoned for his faith. Back in that time, the King of England required pastors to get a certain license that would ensure that pastors would only preach messages that the King approved of. As you can imagine, the King only wanted messages to be preached that did not preach the gospel but only benefited himself, but John refused and went to prison for it. While he was there, he wrote The Pilgrim’s Progress for his children to have and they could discuss it during visits. As soon as it was published it became the second most inspirational book next to the Bible ever written. What is it about this story that captivated so many people for hundreds of years? Well take a stroll with me and you will find out.

The Pilgrim’s Progress centers around Christian Pilgrim who lives in the City of Destruction with his wife and children. There everyone essentially does the same thing, they work, they exist, and then they die. The only thing is, there is no happiness in the City of Destruction and no real hope for anything else, until one day Christian discovers a book written by the King of the Celestial City. In this book it talks about how all pilgrims are born in the City of Destruction, but through the grace of the King he has made a way for pilgrims to come out of the City and go and live in the Celestial City forever. This causes a huge burden, that only Christian can see and feel, to grow on his back. Every passing day it grows bigger and bigger. Finally, he has had enough and makes the difficult decision to leave the City and head toward the Celestial City. He tries to bring his family, but they refuse, and he makes the most difficult decision yet and leaves his family to go to the Celestial City. On his journey he meets all kinds of different characters who either help him on his journey or distract him away from his journey. If you couldn’t tell by now John Bunyan wrote Christian Pilgrim as an example of regular everyday Christians on their journey to the Celestial City, Heaven.

This study has been so important to the kids to see how vital it is for us to take our faith seriously and to be mindful of the things we do and the people we allow to be our influences. If you have not, I encourage you to go and find a copy to read for yourself and maybe even try to locate one that has a study guide to go along with it. Everything that John Bunyan has written also comes directly from scripture, with a couple of things that he interprets differently than others do, but overall it is a great depiction of what it is like to be a Christian on the walk of life in faith in Jesus Christ. The movie that was made has been donated to the church library and is available for anyone to rent, it is suggested to watch it with 7 years and above. All of us feel like pilgrims in this dark and crazy world, but we have to remember to stay on the path and know that the King is always with us and will never fail us.

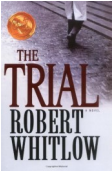
Blessings,  
Josh Lucas



Dad Jokes with Josh:

I don't trust stairs. They're always up to something!

## From the library--



The first book this month, *THE TRIAL*, is for the Robert Whitlow fans: "Attorney Kent 'Mac' MacClain has nothing to live for. Nine years after the horrific accident that claimed the life of his wife and two sons, he's finally given up. His empty house a mirror for his empty soul, it seems suicide is his only escape. Now the question is: death by pills or by bullet? **AND THEN THE PHONE RINGS.** Angela Hightower, the beautiful heiress and daughter of the most powerful man in Dennison Springs, has been found dead in the bottom of a ravine in her yellow Porsche. The accused killer, Peter Thomason, needs a lawyer. But Mac has come up against the Hightowers and their ruthless, high-powered lawyers before—an encounter that left his practice and reputation reeling. The stakes are high, but can Mac turn down a man whose life is on the line. **MAC TAKES THE CASE.** Thomason asserts his innocence, but the circumstantial evidence pointing to his guilt seems insurmountable. Is Mac defending an ingenious psychopath who deserves the death penalty? Or, Mac begins to wonder, has Thomason been framed—possibly by a member of the victim's own family? **IT COMES TO A TRIAL**--a trial for the life of Pete Thomason."



The third book in the "Natchez Trace Park Rangers" series. *CROSSHAIRS* by Patricia Bradley is next. "Investigative service branch ranger Ainsley Beaumont wishes the visit to her hometown of Natchez, Mississippi, was under better circumstances. When she arrived to investigate the murder of a pregnant teenager, she never imagined that she would become the killer's next target—or that she'd have to work alongside an old flame. After he almost killed a child, a former FBI sniper Lincoln Steele couldn't bring himself to fire a gun, which had deadly consequences for his best friend. Crushed beneath a load of guilt Linc is working at Melrose Estate as an interpretive ranger. But as danger closes in on Ainsley during her murder investigation, Linc will have to find the courage to protect her. The only question is, will it be too little, too late."



Robin Lee Hatcher wrote *LIKE THE WIND*. "Olivia Ward arrived in Bethlehem Springs alone—with no job, no home, and no money—after her manipulative ex-husband used his power and wealth to destroy everything. Six years later, the peaceful life she rebuilt is once again turned upside down when she learns that her fifteen-year-old daughter, Emma, will be coming to live with her. The reunion should be a dream come true, but years of deception have driven a wedge between them. And Emma seems more interested in an old diary she discovered than reconciliation with her mother. Tyler Murphy knows that it's like to lose everything. Propelled by his history in the foster-care system, he's determined to root out dishonesty and protect the most vulnerable through his work as an investigator. When he's hired to investigate Olivia Ward, though he finds himself longing to believe she's exactly who she appears to be and he soon realizes that his desire to learn more about her has nothing to do with his job. But how can he pursue a relationship that began with a lie?"

As always, you are encouraged to visit the library soon.

~~Jeannette Juffer



# Celebrations

## ~~Birthday's~~

- 1 Kenzie Wills
- 2 Brenda Ackerman  
Andrea Leusink  
Kristen Hurlburt
- 4 Rachel Wills
- 5 Amy Carda
- 7 Tayah Beyer
- 8 Brenda Post  
Tami Tracy  
Codie Wynia
- 9 Ruth Ann Wiersma
- 10 Charlie Ackerman  
Jamie Bruxvoort
- 11 Josh Lucas  
Brody Wills
- 12 Keegan De Zeeuw
- 13 Fay Vos  
Kacee Van Ruler  
Kelsey Van Ruler  
Dale Carda

16 Larry Verdoorn  
Josh Wagenaar  
Anita Hoting

17 Katha Kruger

19 Brian Alexander

20 Verlyn Smidt

21 Larry De Boer

24 Teresa Hurlburt  
Lawrynn Travaille  
Clayton Wagenaar

25 Imogene Rasmussen

26 Brysen Loerts

27 Riley Christensen  
Cody Hurlburt

28 Sayla Julius

29 Laurie Kraayenbrink  
Daren Rockman  
Justin Wagenaar

30 Ed Harskamp  
Gladys Tiedeman

31 Helen Vander Veen  
Quinnley Ackerman

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

## ~~Anniversaries~~

- |    |                         |          |
|----|-------------------------|----------|
| 7  | Mark and Angela De Boer | 52 years |
| 9  | Travis and Jill Boeke   | 14 years |
| 10 | Dave and Sandy Lamfers  | 43 years |
| 21 | Nick and Sara Buysman   | 3 year   |
| 27 | Dale and Karen Honken   | 40 years |
| 28 | Troy and Meggan Block   | 18 years |



## 2023 Annual Men & Boys FRC Fishing Trip



### Where:

Hidden Hills Lodge in NE South Dakota

### When:

July 13-16

### Who:

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



Questions? Contact  
Chris Wynia  
or Dan Heilman

THANK YOU  
**MOM**  
FOR THE  
*love* YOU GIVE  
.....  
THE *wisdom* YOU SHARE  
AND ALL THE SACRIFICES  
YOU'VE MADE



## Remnant Tip Night at Pizza Ranch!!





# Memorial Day Word Search

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

AMERICAN  
 COMMEMORATE  
 FLAGS  
 GRAVE  
 HONOR  
 OBSERVANCE  
 SACRIFICE  
 SOLDIERS

ANTHEM  
 DECORATION  
 FLOWERS  
 HEROES  
 MAY  
 PATRIOTIC  
 SALUTE  
 VETERANS

CEMETERY  
 FALLEN  
 FREEDOM  
 HOLIDAY  
 MEMORIAL  
 REMEMBRANCE  
 SERVICE  
 WAR



## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ MEMORIAL DAY *Word Scramble*

REENMRMCEAB

4

LCIIV ARW

12

14

10

WLROD WASR

8

SSANIPH AAENCMRI WRA

18

11

19

AKEONR WRA

5

9

22

DTESRE TSOMR

1

15

21

MVNEIAT RAW

7

DSISLEOR

6

EDPRASA

16

17

VTSERNAE

20

3

23

OHESRE

2

FSLGA

13

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8

u

9 10

y

11 12 13 14 15 16 17

18 19 20 21 22 23

# Launching Your Graduate: Three Biblical Life Lessons

Gary Hansen

I remember fondly that hot June day when I received my high school diploma in the school gym. My parents and grandparents beamed from ear to ear.

That was 53 Junes ago (1965) and the times were much different. For me, it was a mixture of excitement and total terror. The next chapter in my life was unknown. College was a strange new word in my family.

With time come the gifts of wisdom and perspective about life, and I realize now there was something missing in our home. God was not in any of the discussions about the future—not before, during, or after graduation. Yes, my parents both attended church most of the time and we grew up in Sunday school, but church was for Sunday and the rest of the week was for work and work alone.

I wish my father had taken to heart the sermons he heard on Sundays and shared some of those insights about life with me. I realize now you can't share something you don't understand or have not experienced. There are many lessons I wish my father had taught me about God's abundant life—lessons that would have given me a greater sense of confidence as I headed off to college.

After a lifetime of varied work experience, God has led me to a calling today in which I advise high school and college graduates, as well as older adults, about finding their purpose in their careers and callings.\* Out of my own experience and what I have learned from meeting with hundreds of individuals, I have discovered three important things graduates should keep in mind during this season of celebration.

## 1. God Never Wastes Our Time

In both the Old and New Testaments, God made us a promise that he does not waste time. In the Book of Jeremiah, he made this promise to the nation of Israel as they were held captive in Babylon, "I know what I am doing, I have it all planned out – plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you a future you hoped for (Jer. 29:11, *The Message*). Again, in Romans, Paul reiterates God's promise: "That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good (Rom. 8:28, MSG)."

These verses are two incredible promises around which a family can build a foundation of faith that will give your grad encouragement when they become a bit hesitant about their next step. God wants us to flourish in our faith and be confident in his promises.

## 2. God Means for You to Be Where You Are

Although not an easy topic to discuss or thing to experience, God wants us to understand how to deal with tough times. In one of my favorite books, *The Red Sea Rules*, Robert Morgan reminds us that we can learn a great deal from the nation of Israel trapped at the Red Sea.

Even in difficult times, God has much to teach us about faith and trust. Morgan's first rule took me some time to ponder and accept, "Realize that God means for you to be where you are." Yes, that's right, God intended for the Israelites to be trapped at the Red Sea; it was all part of his plan.

Encourage your grad that even when they feel overwhelmed or unsure of their direction, they can trust that God has them exactly where they are for a reason. They should keep their eyes on God and remember that worry and fear cannot live in the same space with hope and action. When we stand on faith and take positive action, we evict worry and fear. In the words of Charles H. Spurgeon, "The Lord will make a way for you where no foot has been before. That which, like a sea, threatens to drown you, shall be a highway for your escape."

## 3. "Stand Still" and Wait on God's Timing

Today, many of us want everything to happen now, but that is not always God's plan. Robert Morgan understands timing and states this rule, "Stay calm and confident, and give God time to work."

In the Book of Exodus, Moses boldly proclaimed to the Israelites, "Fear not, stand still (firm and confident), and see the salvation of the Lord which He will work for you today. For the Egyptians you have seen today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you and you shall hold your peace and remain at rest" (Ex. 14:13-14, *Amplified Bible*).

This is what the biblical phrase "wait on the Lord" is all about: committing our own Red Sea situations to him in prayer, trusting him, and waiting for him to work.

C. H. Mackintosh summed up faith this way: "Faith raises the soul above the difficulty, straight to God Himself, and enables one to stand still. We gain nothing by our restless and anxious efforts...It is therefore true wisdom, in all times of difficulty and perplexity, to stand still – to wait only upon God, and He will assuredly open a way for us." Understanding God's true wisdom and learning to trust him, no matter what, is the greatest lesson your new grad can learn in this graduation season.

Do not leave God out of your conversations; welcome him into your discussions. He will bless your family for putting him first.

# Sportsmen's Devotional

## Bible Study Verse

John 15:13

No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life for his friends. (HCSB)



## Thoughts

To many Memorial Day is just another day off from work, but today the Sportsmen's Devotional Team remembers and honors those who gave their lives to protect America and other nations.

It began in the 1770's when men fought and died to help our nation become free. In wars since then Americans have stepped forward over and over again and given the ultimate sacrifice. We have never asked for anything from the nations where Americans have fought and died except for a small piece of land to bury our soldiers killed in action.

We know thousands of our most faithful readers are sportsmen and women that are currently serving us in other nations within the armed services. We want to say **THANK YOU** for looking after those seeking to be free as well as protecting us today here in America. We also want to recognize the large number of veterans that have served our nation in past conflicts. **THANK YOU!**

Lord, thank you for those who gave their lives and most importantly for our precious gift of salvation Jesus Christ bought with the sacrifice of His Life.

## Action Point

On Memorial Day take the time to seek out at least two veterans and thank them for their service. You can also do this with family members that have lost loved ones while serving our nation. Consider practicing this each Memorial Day and follow through.

## Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

In the military they teach a soldier to keep their firearm clean and in perfect working order. Apply this to your hunting arms. RIG, Rust Inhibiting Grease, is a dependable universal gun grease and has been around since the 1930's. It offers excellent storage protection for firearms.

### **Trivia Time Answers!!!**

1. To hide the meaning of His teachings from those who wouldn't understand. 2. A an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. 3. That everyone is our neighbor. 4. Jews hated Samaritans and would not associate with them. 5. Those who do not understand the word of God. 6. Heard the word and followed, but soon fell away. 7. heard, but caught up in riches of the world. 8. Heard and followed 9. All must be ready when He comes. 10. Oil for the lamps



Spring  
**Flower Sale**  
& Burger Feed

Sponsored by the  
Middle School Remnant Youth Group

Wednesday  
**May 17th**  
5:30pm-7:30pm

Plants Galore Including:  
Bedding Plants, Vegetable  
Packs, Potted Plants,  
Beautiful Hanging Baskets,  
and Gorgeous Arrangements



\*\*Special request plants/flowers need to be specified  
prior to sale. Please contact Josh with any requests.

All Proceeds go toward the  
Middle School Summer Retreat!!

**Location:**  
First Reformed Church Fellowship Hall

**PRAYER  
WALK**

Sunday, May 21

Meet at FRC at 4:00 pm

Sponsored by the Outreach Ministry Team



Student  
Registration  
Form



SCAN ME

Sunday, June 4: 4pm-8pm &  
Mon. June 5 – Wed. June 7:  
5:30pm-8:30pm  
**Sign Up Today!!**

(Registration will remain open through May 21)

If you have questions or would like  
to register by phone, please contact  
Chelsey Alexander (712-461-0536) or  
Maureen Heilman (712-330-2451)

Volunteer  
Registration  
Form



SCAN ME

Student Link: <https://sibleyfrc.myanswers.com/keepers-of-the-kingdom/register/>  
Volunteer Link: <https://sibleyfrc.myanswers.com/keepers-of-the-kingdom/volunteer/>