



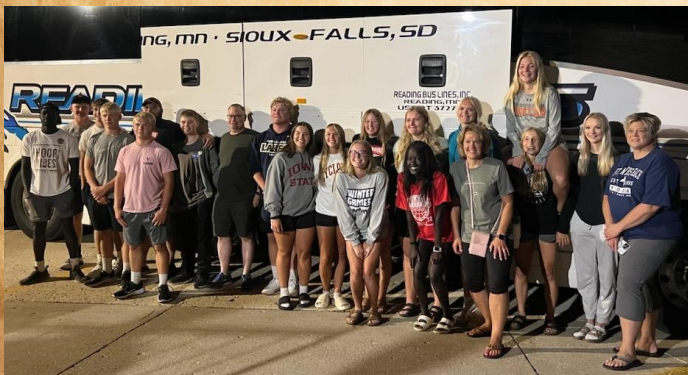
The Newsletter

August 2023

REMNANT ON THE MOVE!



**Middle School Remnant
Ark Encounter/Creation Museum Trip
June 23-27, 2023**



Yes, and...

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH
ESTES PARK, COLORADO
july 22-26 2023

**High School Remnant
Rocky Mountain High
July 21-26, 2023**

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

August at a Glance

- 31-4: Josh Ministering as Camp Chaplin at Inspiration Hills
- 31-4: FRC is in charge of Meals on Wheels
- 1: 10am-7pm OCMA Backpack distribution in Fireside Room
- 7: 8am-2pm OCMA Backpack distribution in Fireside Room
- 7-11: FRC is in charge of Meals on Wheels
- 14: 6:00 pm Elder/Deacon meeting
 - 7:00 pm Consistory meeting
- 21: 9:30 am Faith Bible Study
 - 3:00 pm Patience Bible Study
- 16: 12pm-6pm OCMA Backpack distribution in Fireside Room
- 20: Communion Sunday
- 23: School starts for S-O

*Sundays:

- 9:00 am Praise & Worship Service
- 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship Time
- Sunday School is on Summer Break

*Tuesdays:

- 8:30 am Quilting Chicks will meet

*Wednesday Evening Bible Classes and Youth Groups:

- On Summer Break! See you in the fall!!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

712-754-2783

sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com

View our Website at: sibleyfrc.org





Stewardship & Giving

Offering Summary through July 29:

- **General Fund: \$196,473.39**
Budget: \$340,984.97; 57% of budget
- **Benevolent Fund: \$20,743.17**
Budget: \$70,205.23; 29% of budget
- **Building Fund offerings to date: \$1,310**

Faith In Action for August Upper Des Moines

Let's help fill up the pantry! Any non-perishable food is welcome. Thank you for sharing!



Special Offering for August



The Bountiful Blessings Table Is Back!!



A great way to share your abundance of garden produce, flowers, baked goods, home canned items, crafts... (all items are appreciated)



All items donated to the table are available to take home for a free-will monetary donation.

All money collected by the end of the season will once again be donated to a local food pantry.



How You Can Access These Resources:

Church Website: www.sibleyfrfc.org

click on Right Now Media to be taken directly to their site.

Website Link to set up your account :

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/>

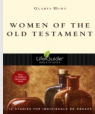
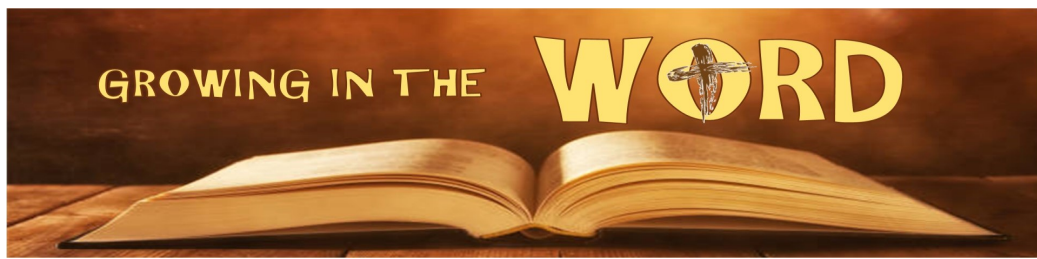
FirstReformedSibley

Google Play Store App:

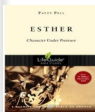
Right Now Media

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Faith Bible Study, will meet on **Monday, August 21 at 9:30 am**. We will be studying chapter #3 “Jesus the Storytelling Teacher” in our book *Meeting Jesus*. Scripture will be Mark 4:1-25. Janelle will be leader and Jeannette will serve as hostess. All are invited! Hope to see you there!



Patience Bible Study, will meet on **Monday, August 21 at 3:00 pm**. We will be studying lesson 2, “Trusting God’s Work” in our book, *Esther*. Scripture for the lesson is Esther 2. Barb will lead and Jan Juffer will serve as hostess.

Young Adult Singles/Married Couples Bible Study Opportunity

Is on break for summer. Please keep watching the bulletin for fall start date!

Online Bible Study Opportunity:

Eyewitness Bible Series has released another online Bible Study set, **Acts**. Please visit our website, www.sibleyfrc.org, click on the MEDIA link, Adult Education Opportunities, then Online Bible Study and Devotions.



Sunday Evening Fellowship Bible Studies are on Summer Break

Trivia Time!!

1. Adam called his helpmate woman and named her Eve. What did God call Eve?
2. What Bible character walked around naked and without shoes for three years?
3. What is the name of the man who was killed by having a nail driven through his head?
4. Who said, “Eli, Eli, Lama sabachthani” and what does it mean?
5. The Bible characters of Samson, David and Benaiah all have one thing in common. What is it?
6. What was the name of the man who killed 800 men with a spear?
7. Jesus had how many brothers and sisters?
8. Who was the man who killed 600 men with an ox goad?
9. What man in the Bible wished that he had been aborted?
10. The ministering women gave up their brass mirrors to make a bathtub for men to wash in. Who were the men?

Praise and Worship Greeters

- 6: E: John and Lois Van Diepen
C: Jim and Pauline Van Engen
W: Curt and Peg Van Kley
- 13: E: Ger and Barb Van Diepen
C: Josh and Hannah Lucas/family
W: Dean and Amy Van Marel
- 20: E: Harvey and Marcia Van Ruler
C: Jim and Jena Ver Steeg/family
W: Bryan Verdoorn
- 27: E: Brian and Heidi Sayler/family
C: Roger Verdoorn
W: Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar

Nursery

The Nursery will be open for use,
but unstaffed.

Children & Worship during the service



**Children and Worship is on
Summer Break.
See you in next month!!**

Willing Hands Group



**Willing Hands
Group #3**
will be responsible for
services during the month.

Co-chairpersons are:

- Jamie/Scott Hulstein
- Sandy/Dave Lamfers

Fellowship Coffee Servers



- 6: Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar
13: Lawrence and Ruth Wiersma
20: Nate and Angie Buysman
27: Merlin and Karen Doorenbos

Library Volunteers



- 6: Ruth Wiersma
13: Marilynn DeBoer
20: Gert Gaalswyk
27: Jan Henrichs

Sportsmen's Devotional

Today's Photograph . . . Not Only Is The Grand Canyon ALL About Jesus, But THE ENTIRE Creation Declares His Worth

Bible study Verses

Luke 19:38-40

Shouting: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord; peace in Heaven and glory in the highest!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." But Jesus answered, "I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!" (NASB)



Thoughts

The last trip I made to the Grand Canyon, a brother and I sacrificed our annual hike (to the bottom and out in the same day) so that we could ride our mountain bikes around part of the rim. This allowed me to get some pictures for these devotionals. One photo I was able to capture is entitled, "The Heart of the Canyon". (Can you see the heart-shaped rock at center-right?) If you have not been to the Grand Canyon, you need to go. If you are like me, you will be moved by the splendor and majesty of God's creative power!

"To declare God's worth" is a very appropriate definition of worship that I learned some years ago. The rocks and stones in the canyon are doing just that. As a matter of fact, they are crying out, even now, as you read this. While driving home from work today, I listened to a song which invited us to come back to the heart of worship:

". . . It's all about You, Jesus; it's all about You."

Not only is the Grand Canyon ALL about Jesus, but THE ENTIRE creation declares His worth!!

Action Point

The next time you visit a place like the Grand Canyon, bring a Walkman, Discman, or iPod with your favorite praise song, or some really inspirational music. As you listen and look at that small part of creation, from your heart, give credit where credit is due. It really is all about Jesus and His ingenious works of art everywhere we go!

Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

If you decide you want to hike in and out of the Grand Canyon in one day, it's a great idea to train and build up to it. We usually train for weeks ahead, climbing steeper-and-steeper local trails as "the big day" approaches. When we don't prepare, we usually regret it.

Trivia Time Answers!!!

1. Adam (Genesis 5:1,2 KJV)
2. Isaiah (Is. 20:3)
3. Sisera the Canaanite captain (Judges 4:18-21)
4. Jesus, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matt 27:46)
5. All slew a lion (Judg.14:5,6; 1 Sam 17:34-36; 2 Sam 23:20)
6. Adino the Eznite (2 Sam 23:8)
7. 4 brothers, at least 2 sisters (Mark 6:3)
8. Shamgar (Judg. 3:31)
9. Job (Job 3:2,3,11,16)
10. Moses, Aaron and his sons (Exodus 38:8, 40:30,31)



GENERAL SYNOD 2023

I have been listening to the videos from General Synod and reading about the major changes proposed at this year's meeting. I encourage you to read and listen for yourselves—everything you need is found on the website homepage and is easy to find. Go to www.rca.org

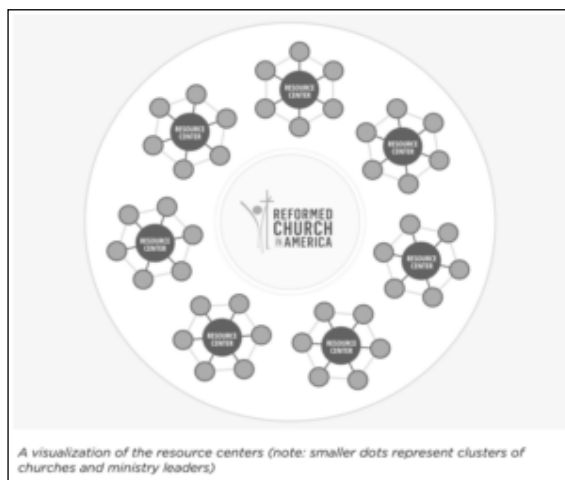
One of the more interesting discussions occurred around the draft from the Restructuring Team. If you recall, the Vision 2020 team proposal included a way for churches to leave the RCA peaceably, and they recommended restructuring the denomination.

Since then, the Restructure Team has been working on a proposal that was presented to the General Synod this year. It was NOT adopted. More information will be presented in 2024.

The team proposed a **radical change** to the way that the church government of the RCA would function. Besides changing our terminology, there would be a significant change in who has authority, how work would take place, and how we would think of ourselves globally. Here are the highlights:

PROPOSAL 1: Move to **global leadership** and **resource centers** with **clusters of churches** and ministries

- *Resource center:* Primary assembly, responsible for credentialing and ordaining ministers and commissioned pastors, equipping churches, and functioning as a judiciary.
- *Global leadership council:* Secondary assembly, serving as the denominational executive board.
- *Clusters:* Groups of churches and ministry leaders within a resource center serve as a relational support network.



PROPOSAL 2: Move to more frequent local gatherings with less frequent global gatherings

- *Resource centers* would hold annual business meetings, using a consensus model for decision-making rather than Robert's Rules of Order.
- *Global leadership* gatherings would happen every three to four years. The focus would be worship, prayer, preaching, and equipping, with no decision-making business on the agenda.

PROPOSAL 3: Create a Biblically-based system for accountability and discipline

- The policies would be based on the process outlined in Matthew 18, with a sought outcome of reconciliation in each case.
- The resource centers would be the primary judicatories.

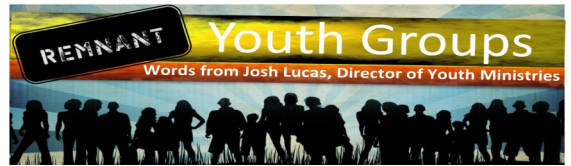
Hello First Reformed Church,

Have you ever heard the phrase, “The world is going to Hell in a handbasket?” If it’s not that phrase you probably have heard some type of equivalent. No matter the phrase typically the overall message of this phrase is that things have gotten bad in our world. Now let’s look at the facts of our world and let’s see if this phrase holds water. Our nation performs nearly one million abortions every year, murdering nearly one million babies in the womb. Our nation and other nations around the world are attempting to pass laws that will allow children to receive gender reassignment surgeries, without parental consent. According to “experts” in the medical field they recognize that men are allowed to become pregnant or to have periods. Biological men are allowed to compete in women sports. Finally, our nation is the largest ring for child sex trafficking in the entire world. There are other stats, but I think for now that is a good stopping point to conclude that things are bad right now. However, does that mean that all hope is lost? That the church has done all that it can for the culture. ABSOLUTELY NOT! We are warned countless times in the Bible that these sorts of things are going to take place. Just as a side note, no I do not think that we are living in end times. We have been living in end times since the ascension of Jesus over 2,000 years ago, there’s still work that needs to be done. I would say that even though it may seem bad, things are just as God foreknew. Not only does He know what is going on, but He has a plan for it all. We have seen that all throughout history. God had a plan then and He still has a plan now.

What does this mean for the church? It is time for us to become educated and then we can do something about it. I will admit we need to be more educated about what is going on around us to be able to enact real change. We need to educate ourselves in God’s word. What does God’s word say about this issue? One great resource that we have shared with the students is “openBible.info” this resource is a great tool. It has a geographical Bible that shows you where different events happened in the Bible. It has the best feature, it is called “Topical Bible” this is where you type in a word in the search engine, hit find out, and in seconds you will be given around 100 different Scripture passages that deal with the word or phrase you were searching for. I encourage you all to do this for the cultural issues that we are facing today. Abortion, gay marriage, transgenderism, racism, sex trafficking, etc. You think that the Bible does not talk about these things, but in some way it does. Overall, it stems back to the second greatest commandment, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Not in the way of letting them die in their sin but loving them enough to tell them the truth about their sin and to repent and trust in Jesus.

Things may be getting bad, but no matter how bad things get brothers and sisters, there are no surprises when it comes to God. He knows exactly what He is doing. Let us trust in Him and go where He is leading us to go. Even if it seems crazy go and do it. If it contradicts the Bible, it is not from God. God will never lead you anywhere that contradicts His word. Stay faithful, God is working all of it together for the good. Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and always remember, if you ever need a hug this big ole teddy bear has one just for you.

Blessings,
Josh Lucas



Dad Jokes With Josh:

Q: What do you call a factory that makes okay products?

A: A satisfactory.

BE A
Prayer
WARRIOR

Luke 21:36

Rowland & Jan Van Es
Grace Covenant Ministries

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

PRAYER LIST

BE A
Prayer
WARRIOR
Like 21:36

PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

1. Verlyn and Donna Smidt
2. Kevin and Nancy Soat
3. Mark and Brenda Post-Steil
4. Donna Sterler
5. Pray for our College Students
6. Pray for our Church
7. LeRoy and Karen Stevenson
8. Dave and Lesa Stofferan
9. Bob and Gladys Tiedeman
10. Jenny Timmer; Avery, Alex
11. Ken and Sharalyn Tjaden
12. Pray for our College Students
13. Pray for our church
14. Greg Tracy; Lindy
15. Chad and Megan Travaille;
Lawrynn, Margaret
16. Pastor Troy and Pam Van Beek
17. Randy and Kelli Van De Berg
18. Duane and Pam Vande Hoef
19. Pray for our College Students
20. Pray for our Church
21. Paul Vander Linden
22. Harold and Shelia Van Der Sloot
23. Mark Vander Sloot; Jackson, Keegan
24. Helen Vander Veen
25. Collin and Lexi Van Diepen; Theodore
26. Pray for our College Students
27. Pray for our Church
28. Ger and Barb Van Diepen
29. John and Lois Van Diepen
30. Janelle Van Drunen
31. Jim and Pauline Van Engen

College Students:

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

MacKenzie Beyer
Kaden Maxwell
Teddy Van Gelder

Carter Brouwer
Andrea Leusink
Tyler Feldkamp

Dalten Bremer
Ashilyn Hulstein
Natalie Klaassen

Grant Brouwer
Ryan Van Marel



Celebrations

~~Birthday's~~

1 Ellie Loerts	20 Charlie Kuhl
3 Vanessa Odens	21 Jessa Wolter
4 Garrett Saylor	22 Paul Feldkamp Jena Meyer Lindy Tracy
7 Cory Dykstra Dawson Beyer Aidan Beyer	24 Sharon Bartels Amy Elser
8 Chris Wynia Landon Odens	25 Wilma Hatting Lars Ackerman
9 Natalie Klaassen	26 John Bartels Brenda Kuhl Brad Loerts
10 Barb Van Diepen Regan Crichton Anita Ernst	27 Madison Brouwer
11 Leanne Van Kley	28 Larry Riebeling
13 Tayler Bremer	29 David Van Ruler
15 Megan Loerts	30 Renae Groen Lisa Nissen Linda Mehls
16 Deb Kosters Dawson Kreykes	31 Tessa Feldkamp Grace Saylor Jackson Van Der Sloot
17 Alyssa Wassman Cody Dykstra Andrea Block	
18 Peyton Crichton	
19 Alexis Gaalswyk Maureen Heilman	

~~Anniversaries~~

2 Jim & Pauline Van Engen	49 years
4 Merlin & Karen Doorenbos Chad & Megan Travaille	33 years 5 years
6 Ger and Barb Van Diepen Ken and Wilma Loerts	57 years 47 years
7 Charlie and Brenda Kuhl John and Kim Mc Dougall	42 years 24 years
11 Eugene and Renae Groen	51 years
13 Steve and Lynn Mulder Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar Michael and Chelsea Hulstein	35 years 35 years 12 years
15 Mike and Mary Hustoft	60 years
18 Dave & Donna Kleinwolterink	47 years
22 Arnie & Diane Langstraat	54 years
23 Scott and Jamie Hulstein Brent and Brenda Wassman	26 years 26 years
24 John and Lois Van Diepen Randy and Kelli Vande Berg	61 years 33 years
25 Brian and Chelsey Alexander	11 years
28 Leroy & Glenda De Boer	42 years
30 Steve & Leanne Van Kley Brian and Megan Loerts	49 years 15 years

From the library--

Recently the library acquired many new books, included were a number of an Amish genre. So this month the synopses from two of the Amish books will begin this article:



A SISTER'S SECRET is the first book of the "Sister of Holmes County" series, "Putting her 'Rumschringe' (running around years) behind her, Grace Hostettler returns to Holmes County, Ohio, joins the Amish church, and begins a new life with a new romance. The next four years are nearly idyllic for the oldest Hostettler child-except for the hidden pain she bears from a carefully harbored secret. Her peaceful world is shattered the day she runs into Gary Walker-an English man who knows enough about her past to destroy her future.

Gary's arrival in Holmes County coincides with a series of startling attacks against the Hostettlers. Is Gary at the root of this evil? Amishman Cleon Schrock plans to marry Grace but is unaware of her past. When evidence of Grace's deception arrives on her family's doorstep, will Cleon abandon the woman he loves? Will one woman's secrets destroy an entire Amish community? Can love and faith triumph over shame and deception?"



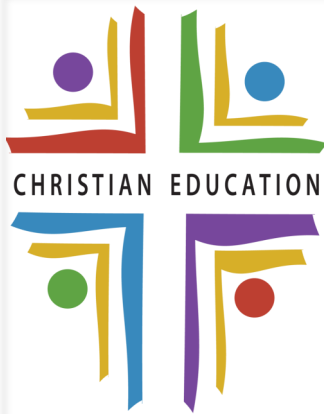
Some of you have read THE PATIENT ONE by Shelley Shepard Gray, "The Walnut Creek Series." THE LOYAL ONE is book number 2: "When Katie Steury hires Harley Lambright to remodel her rundown house into a bed-and-breakfast, she does so with trepidation. Though they are longtime friends, they've recently had a rocky relationship, thanks to her being partly responsible for his latest breakup. But while they may not always get along, she needs someone to trust with her secrets, and Harley is nothing if not trustworthy. Katie has always reminded Harley of a bright hummingbird—she moves a mile a minute, and she possesses a very sharp beak. He's hesitant to accept the job because of his history with Katie. But when he realizes that Katie's been hiding her mother's hoarding, he agrees to help because it's clear she needs someone on her side. Both soon discover that clearing the debris in an old house can lead to some cleanup in their lives, too. As the house gets a second chance, so does their relationship. Now all they have to do is open their hearts—and pray that their new bond will stand the test of time,"



If you have been reading the "Colorado Cowboy" series, you will want to read book #5, THE LAST CHANCE COWBOY, by Jody Hedlund where we find out what the youngest McQuaid brother is up to: "As a midwife, Catherine Remington is successful in bringing new life into the world, but she's failed one too many times in finding true love. When she's accused of a murder she didn't commit, she's forced to flee to Colorado to honor a patient's dying wish by delivering a newborn infant to his father, Dylan McQuaid. The repentant prodigal Dylan McQuaid is finally back in Fairplay. As sheriff he's doing his best to prove to the town he's a changed man and worthy of their trust. When a woman shows up with an infant son he didn't know he had, Dylan is left with only complicated choices on what to do next. Having grown attached to Dylan's son, Catherine doesn't want to part ways with the infant, but what she doesn't bargain for is how easily she'll fall for the charming sheriff, or how quickly the past will catch up with her and put their love and lives in danger."

Be sure to visit the library soon and check out a book that interests you. Please use the convenient calendar posted on the bulletin board to find the date due (you have two weeks and can always renew) to record it on the check out card where you have also recorded your name.

Jeannette Juffer



Education Schedule:

- Sunday School:
On Summer Break
- Wednesday Bible Classes:
On Summer Break
- MS and HS Remnant Youth Group:
On Summer Break

YOUTH KICK-OFF

6-12 Graders are invited to the
Annual Youth Kickoff for Food,
Games and Fellowship!

**Wednesday,
August 30th
6-8pm**

Watch your bulletins for more
information as time gets closer.

A Letter from Pastor Colas...



Brothers and Sisters of First Reformed Church in Sibley, Iowa, I greet you all in the name of the Lord Jesus. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting me and my family and the Church. I pray for you all and ask The Lord to continue to be with your church. It has been 6 years since I began receiving help from you and it's been a blessing in so many ways. My words aren't enough to thank you all for this help, please continue praying for us because the church needs a lot of repairs and the roof is very bad with leaks. The elderly in our church and community need our assistance and our goal is to try to feed them a few times a month at our church. One of our church members started a music class for our youth too. Continue praying for them, the church, my family and Haiti, please.

Thank you very much. Peace & Grace be with you all.

~~Colas M. Lead Pastor

Prayer for Protection this *School Year*

Thank you, Lord for Your divine protection over our children. Keep them safe as they travel to and from school. Protect them from any physical harm while they are in school. I stand on Your Word that no weapon formed against them will prosper. I thank you that Your angels stand guard over them and surround them like a shield. Guard their hearts and minds as they step out to meet new friends. Let negative words or comments, roll off them and not take root in their souls. Cover them as they navigate this new school year and guide them in the right direction. In Jesus' name, Amen!

flourishing today



GIANT

Back to School

Word Search

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

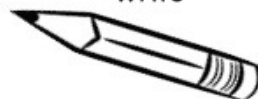


Answer
Arithmetic
Art
Assignment
Backpack
Binder
Biology
Blackboard
Cafeteria
Calculator
Chair
Chemistry
Clock
Compass
Crayon
Curriculum
Desk
Dictionary
Drama
Dress Code
Education
Eraser
Exam
Folder
Friend
Geography
Globe
Glue
Grade
Gymnasium
Highlighter
History
Kindergarten
Language
Learn
Lesson
Library
Listen
Lunchbox

Map
Marker
Math
Music
Notebook
Open House
Paper
Pencil
Physics
Principal
Protractor
Pupil

Question
Read
Recess
Respect
Ruler
Schedule
School Bus
Science
Scissors
Sharpener
Silence
Stapler

Student
Subject
Tape
Teacher
Test
Textbook
Tutor
Uniform
Write



2023 Annual Men & Boys FRC Fishing Trip

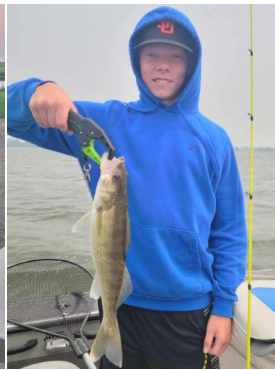
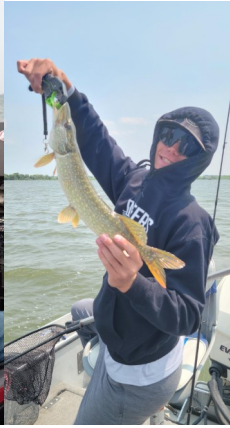
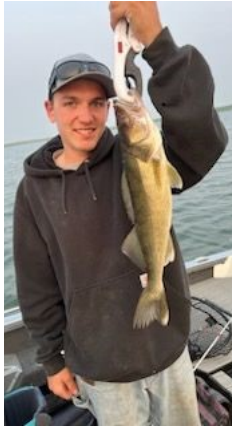


Have you heard any good fish stories lately? Well let me fill you in on the ones I heard over the past weekend. A small group of 17 grandpas, dads, and kids went on a fishing trip that they will remember. The questions asked every night at devotions were, "What did you see Today?" and "Where did you see God Today?" Answers were anywhere from the Bald Eagles by the lodge to other creatures in the wild, and of course the fish that were caught. Every morning started off with a hot breakfast and the captains of the boats discussing the plan for the day. Every day found us all back for a supper and fellowship around the big dinner table.

What made this trip so fun for me were the people that shared the boat with me. I'm not sure yet if my passengers were with Jesus when he fed the crowd of 5000, because the fish on the final day had a way of reproducing on the way back to the lodge for supper. When I asked how many were in the live well I was told ohhh maybe 10 fish. Boy were they wrong. A miracle happened on the return. I don't know that we could have filled 10 baskets but something was fishy. See what I mean? Kids that are normally shy were buzzing with conversation in the boat. Dads and grandpas enjoyed the fun and excitement of trying to compete for the biggest and smallest fish contest. Don't get me started on the "smack" talk...

Once again thanks for all the support and prayers while we were gone. Take a look at the pictures. Notice all the smiles. Smile yourself, it's okay to laugh at the pictures. I did. Take a look at the calendar for next year. Make plans to attend. There is plenty of space and I know there are fish that got thrown back for next year. Don't wait until it's too







Dear Friends,

Another semester, another group finishing, and another set of practicum students to visit. This time I (Rowland) went to Thika Memorial Church to visit Samuel, one of our BD students. Funny enough, the priest he was working under was

also an SPU student, but studying Counseling Psychology with Jane.

I was told to come in the afternoon. When I got there around 1 p.m., I found Samuel teaching catechism in the main sanctuary to a dozen sixth graders from the church-run elementary school next door. I told them I had joined the church in seventh grade so they were one year ahead of me. Samuel also goes to their school during the week to do Christian Religious Education (CRE) classes. Religious education classes are offered in most schools here (Muslim schools offer Islamic Religious Education, and mixed public schools offer both classes).



While Samuel was teaching, I met with Rev Andrew, the one studying counseling psychology. Andrew said he chose to do that degree instead of a bachelor of divinity because, while working as a youth pastor with his diploma in theology, he was constantly asked for advice about personal issues, and so he felt that psychology would help him. His bishop then encouraged him to study counseling at St Paul's University.



Andrew had good things to say about Samuel, who then showed me around the parish. They have an old sanctuary built in the 1920s with some nice stained-glass windows. Their youth service is held in the old sanctuary, while the main English and Kikuyu language services are held in the newer, bigger sanctuary.

When I posted a picture of these two churches on Facebook, a missionary friend who used to work in Kenya commented that he had started the youth service with about 13 in attendance, 4 of which were his family members. When I told Samuel that during exam week, he said they are now over 100!

Samuel is just one of many students finishing this year. Those who finished this semester had a special commissioning service during which the Dean of Students encouraged them to be useful to God and society. Then, they each lit a candle from one of the three Deans, marched outside to form a circle, and enjoyed tea and cake to celebrate. It was one of the biggest finishing groups ever.

Because you support us and St Paul's University (through the RCA-SPU scholarship fund), many students are getting an affordable quality Christian higher education that will equip them to work in Kenya, East Africa, and beyond. This year we are celebrating 120 years of faithful ministry since the original divinity school was started by the Church Missionary Society (CMS) on the Kenyan coast in 1903.

Please pray that God will continue blessing St Paul's and send more students and staff for another 120 years of faithful service here to God and humanity.

We thank God for answering our prayers earlier this year for rain. We hope the rainy season that has begun will last long enough to ensure a good maize harvest (it is the staple food of Kenya).

Pray also for the economy here, which is suffering from inflation from the war in Ukraine and the devaluation of the local currency against the dollar (which makes everything imported more expensive).

Pray for an easing of the tension between the ruling party and the opposition, which has had several demonstrations over the cost of living as well as still contesting the results of the 2022 election.



Sincerely,

Jane and Rowland Van Es