



The Newsletter

November 2019

glorify God in all we do,
grow with Him daily &
go with Him to share His love.

Each day is a gift

A 92-year-old delicate but well-poised and proud man, who is fully dressed each morning by eight o'clock, with his hair fashionably coifed and his face shaved perfectly, even though he is legally blind, moved to a nursing home today.

His wife of 70 years recently passed away, making the move necessary. After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, he smiled sweetly when told his room was ready.

As he manoeuvred his walker to the elevator, I provided a visual description of his tiny room, including the eyelet sheets that had been hung on his window.

'I love it,' he stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old having just been presented with a new puppy.

'Mr. Jones, you haven't seen the room; just wait.'

'That doesn't have anything to do with it,' he replied.

'Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged ... it's how I arrange my mind.

I already decided to love it. 'It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice; I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do.'

'Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open, I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away. Just for this time in my life.'

'Old age is like a bank account. You withdraw from what you've put in.'

'So, my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories! Thank you for your part in filling my Memory bank. I am still depositing.'



November at a Glance

- 6: 9:00 am Coffee with the Pastor
- 9:00 am Mothers Together
- 10: Youth Sunday
- 13: Papa Murphy Pizza Sales Start
- 18: 9:00 am Faith Bible Study
- 3:00 pm Patience Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Elder/Deacon Meetings
- 7:00 pm Full Consistory
- 20: MS/HS Remnant Food Find
- 9:00 am Mothers Together
- 21: 6:00 pm Spaghetti Supper
- 7:00 pm Congregational Meeting
- 27: 6:30 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service
- 7:30 pm Christmas Decorating

*Sunday Mornings:

- 9:00 am Cornerstone Service
- 10:10 am Coffee Fellowship
- 10:10 am Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am Open Door Service

*Monday Evenings:

Women's Bible Study is on
Summer break

*Tuesday mornings:

8:30 am Chickadee Quilters

*Wednesday Evening Bible

Classes and Youth Groups:

- 6:30-7:30 Bible Classes for 1st-5th
- 6:30-7:30 pm MS Remnant
- 6:30-7:30 Discovery Class HS & Adult
- 7:30-8:30 pm HS Remnant

CONTACT INFORMATION:
712-754-2783
sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com



View our Website at: sibleyfrc.org



My mother-in-law had a deep-rooted faith as she walked with Jesus Christ. The beauty of who God is comes from the salvation given on the Cross. As we mourned her loss we also celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ, because through Christ we are all given hope.

When the doctors told my mother-in-law, she wasn't going to get better, she was excited. I have never seen someone so excited, knowing they were finally going to see Jesus, after they just been told they were going to die. That was followed by a request for us all to sing the doxology which begins "Praise God from whom all blessings flow..." On Monday morning she was upset when she woke up because she was hoping to be in heaven. On Tuesday she said to the Doctor, "I told Jesus to take the wheel and step on the gas!" Throughout those last days we prayed together, sang, laughed and cried. Each and every one of those moments was filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

My mother-in-law's life was a witness to the resurrection. It was a life of hope and a life of love. In Hebrews 12:1-3 we read:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

To me, she will always be one of those witnesses sent by God. As I have had time to reflect on her beautiful life she truly lived the words of the Apostle Paul when he said in Philippians 1, ²¹ *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

How are you living your life right now? Is it for Christ or something else? The life God has given us is short. It flies by quickly, in the twinkling of an eye. We celebrated her life filled with living for Christ. With every breath she took, Christ's presence was there. And when she died Wednesday morning and took her last breath, she gained. I want you to know the same Jesus she knew. There is beauty and joy walking in a relationship with Christ. There is strength and hope. Jesus will be there to help us through the ups and downs of life and in the end it will all be good.

On Wednesday morning we gathered as children around mom's bed to read to her from her devotion booklet that she has read from for so many years. Not more than 15 seconds after we finished, my mother-in-law took her last breath. It was at that moment that her life ended in this world and she began her new life with her heavenly Father whom she finally got to meet. She was finally home.

In that moment her five children stood around her crying outwardly because she was gone but celebrating inwardly because she was in heaven. It was a moment that was truly holy. In that moment I see Jesus embracing her with strong yet loving arms, welcoming her home, and then looking into her eyes and saying, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Matthew 25:21

Life is short, dig deep in your relationship with Christ. There is nothing greater in this world to find than Jesus himself!

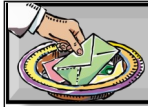
Blessings and love,

Pastor Luke

It's Coffee Time!
With the Pastor!!

Come join Pastor Luke
 and Josh for coffee
 at 9 am on November 6th

We would love to see you all!

Stewardship & Giving

**Special offering for November:
 Sharing Christmas Families**

Offering Summary through October 28th

- General Fund: \$253,646.26;
 Budget: \$279,866; 90% of budget
- Benevolent Fund: \$50,203.12;
 Budget: 86,813.00; 57% of budget
- Building Fund offerings to date:\$1500

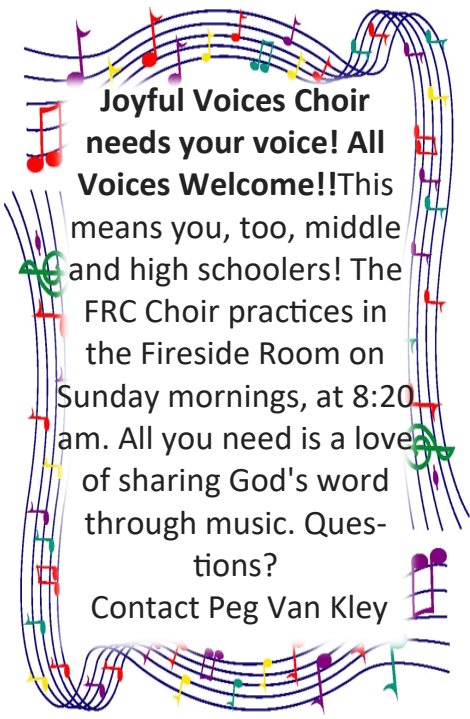
Faith In Action for November:



**Share the love of Jesus, through
 the power of a simple gift, with
 children around the world.**

Shoeboxes are due back to church by:

November 17th



**Joyful Voices Choir
 needs your voice! All
 Voices Welcome!!** This
 means you, too, middle
 and high schoolers! The
 FRC Choir practices in
 the Fireside Room on
 Sunday mornings, at 8:20
 am. All you need is a love
 of sharing God's word
 through music. Ques-
 tions?
 Contact Peg Van Kley

Trivia Time!!!

1. Lazarus is to Jesus as Eutycus is to _____?
2. There was a silversmith in Ephesus by the name of_?
3. What is the name of the Bible character that preached in a valley full of dead men's bones?
4. How old was Joseph when Pharaoh made him a ruler?
5. Apollos was a: a. king b. God c. Learned Jew d. Maker of Tents
6. What was the name of the man who helped an African to understand the Scriptures?
7. What Bible Character used salt to purify drinking water?
8. How old was Moses when he died?
9. Something very special happened to a certain man when he was 600 year old.
 Who was he and what happened?

Cornerstone Service Greeters, 9 am



3: West— Dan & Maureen Heilman/family
Middle—Burt & Jan Henrichs
East— Derek & Ashley Heronimus/family

10: West— Ken & Sandy Heronimus
Middle— Jo Hielkema & Jeannette Juffer
East— Melissa Hisek & family

17: West— Cole & Kayla Hoekstra/family
Middle— Dale & Karen Honken
East— Loren & Deb Hulstein

24: West— Mark & Rosie Hulstein/family
Middle— Michael & Chelsea Hulstein/family
East— Rod & Beth Hulstein

Thanksgiving Eve Service (6:30pm)

27: West—Scott & Jamie Hulstein/family
Middle— Michael & Mary Hustoft
East— Roger & Carol Iedema



9:00 am Nursery

3: Brenda Ackerman & Megan Travaille
10: Wilma Leusink & Andrea Leusink
17: Laurel & Natalie Klaassen
24: Gina & Alyssa Jacobsma
27: Thanksgiving Eve 6:30pm
Maureen Heilman

Library Volunteers



3: Imogene Rasmussen
10: Janice Runia
17: Jen Schram
24: Pauline Van Engen

Sunday School Nursery



3: Joanne Klaassen
10: Abby Kreykes
17: Sandy Lamfers
24: Megan Loerts

Prayer With the Elders



10:00

3: Dr. Greg Kosters
10: Marlin Roelfs
17: Duane Vande Hoef
24: Dick Oldenkamp

12:00

3: Harold Ernst
10: Lawrence Wiersma
17: Dale Honken
24: Bill Hartzell



11:00 am Nursery

3: Sarah Loerts & Mean Loerts
10: Marvella & Apiyo Harberts
17: Anne & Kaylee Maxwell
24: Kira Christensen & Sami Fox

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



Children and Worship Leaders/Helpers

Cornerstone Service 9:00 am

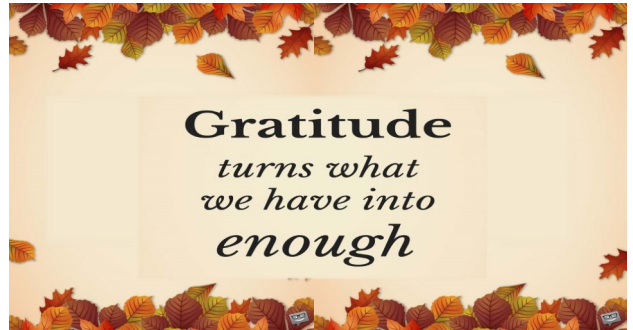
- 3:** Leader: **Deb Kusters**
10: Leader: **Jamie Hulstein**
17: Leader: **Karen Honken**
24: Leader: **Deb Kusters**

Open Door Service 11:00 am

- 3:** Leader: **Deb Kusters**
10: Leader: **Deb Kusters**
17: Leader: **Karen Honken**
24: Leader: **Deb Kusters**

Fellowship Coffee Servers

- 3:** Bob & Gladys Tiedeman
10: Ger & Barb Van Diepen
17: John & Lois Van Diepen
24: Keith & Janelle Van Drunen



After Church Greeters



- 3:** SE: Larry Riebeling
C: Marlin Roelfs
SW: Cal Runia
BE: Pastor Luke
BW: Josh Lucas

- 17:** SE: Pastor Luke
C: Josh Lucas
SW: John Van Diepen
BE: curt Van Kley
BW: Harvey Van Ruler

Thanksgiving Eve Service 6:30

- 27:** SE: Marcus De Boer
C: Ron Dykstra
SW: Pastor Luke
BE: Josh Lucas
BW: Harold Ernst

- 10:** SE: Josh Lucas
C: Bob Tiedeman
SW: Duane Vande Hoef
BE: Paul Vander Linden
BW: Pastor Luke

- 24:** SE: Larry Verdoorn
C: Pastor Luke
SW: Josh Lucas
BE: Lawrence Wiersma
BW: John Bartels

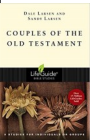
Bible Study Opportunities

Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.

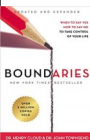
Romans 15:4



Faith Bible Study, who meets the third Monday of most months, will meet on **Monday, November 18 at 9:00 am** in the Library. Lesson leader will be Lynn Schram and Luella Eggink will serve as hostess. We will study lesson 4, "Express Gratitude Throughout the Day," in the book *Busyness* by Juanita Ryan. Scripture for the lesson is from Philippians 4:4-9. Our theme is Busy-ness, Finding God in the Whirlwind, join us and see how you can keep God in your daily life.



Patience Bible Study, who meets the third Monday of most months, will meet on **Monday, November 18 at 3:00 pm**. Barb will serve as lesson leader and Jennie will serve as hostess. We will study lesson #9, "King Xerxes & Esther" in the book, *Couples of the Old Testament*.



Ladies Bible Study at the Lantern, will meet Monday nights at 7:00pm in Bailey's Lodge at the Lantern. They will be digging into the book *Boundaries* by Drs. Cloud and Townsend. People often focus so much on being loving and giving that they forget their own limits. In this book, you'll discover firsthand how sound boundaries give you the freedom to walk as the loving, giving, fulfilled individual God created you to be. Please Join us!

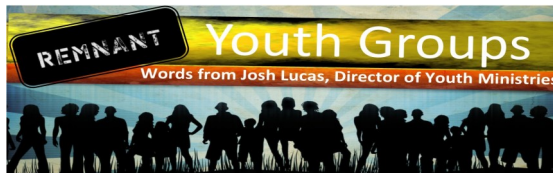


The Monday Night Ladies Bible Study who meets weekly on Monday evenings at 7:00pm is studying *Crossing the Waters* by Leslie Leyland Field via Right Now Media. Please join us for this new video series.

The Women's Sunday Moring Bible Study, meets in the northside of the west end of the Fellowship Hall. Please continue to watch the bulletin for more updates on this opportunity.



The Men's Bible Study, who meets on the south side of the west end of the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings at **10:10 am**, are doing a video study by Joby Martin entitled, *Be A Godly Man*. God has created men to have incredible strength. But today's culture has hijacked masculinity, distorting strength into passivity and abuse. In this 5-part video Bible study series, pastor Joby Martin invites men to embrace God's definition of masculinity and to step into His calling upon their lives to wield their strength on behalf of others. God has designed men to be protectors, providers, and defenders. When men act like men, everyone flourishes. Hope to see you there!



Hello First Reformed Church,

Your Devil Crushing Ninja Trainer (Youth Director for short) here to hopefully encourage and inform you. My newsletter article this month is going to be a little different than usual. As most of you know I recently had the great privilege of graduating from Grand Canyon University this past week in October. It is a little bit weird but I still have to complete a final class and then I will get my diploma. However, I was able to walk during commencement. As I reflect on the past few years, I want to share my story about GCU, and hopefully be able to encourage you all with my testimony. At the end, I will also give an update of youth group!

As I graduate from college I am reminded of Romans 8:28. This is one of the greatest passages (I think) in the Bible. When I first moved to GCU I barely knew anyone. I really only knew like two people and that was it. I had no family nearby that I knew of, no girlfriend, no plan, just go to college and graduate. My faith grew so much while I was at GCU, because I had to rely on him so much to take care of me. Especially when it came down to the end of the semester and I was out of money and did not really know what I was going to do for food. There was a point in my final week of my first semester I lived off of popcorn. I am not kidding either! Then after a while God revealed more ways in which I could take care of myself and budget and do all of those things. By the time my second semester came around I was a professional at living on my own. The only thing I did not really learn how to do was to stick to the budget. I was soon able to actually stick to a budget and make money last me until the next pay check. Then after two semesters of GCU I married Hannah and we decided to move to Sibley. Now we just celebrated Joanna's eight-month birthday! The point of all of this is, things weren't working out because I was making mistakes and I was not focusing on God. As soon as I did and learned to make decisions through prayer and discernment things started working out. I never would have thought that God would have me be in the Mid-West, but here I am. The thing you must remember about Romans 8:28 is that "All things work for the good" when you "Love him and are called according to his purpose." The first step is to love God.

Youth group is going great this year! We have a steady flow of students who have some awesome questions that hopefully we are answering. We are starting fundraising soon for Rocky! Please be on the lookout for those! Thank you for all of your continued support! More information for Rocky will be available as soon as I get it! Remember if you ever need a hug this big ole teddy bear has got one for you!

Blessings,

Josh Lucas

Dad Jokes with Josh:

Q: Why don't bees play baseball?

A: They are always too bees-y!



Now that classes have started for the year we still need you! There are dates in upcoming months that need to be filled.

Please consider helping by leading a class this year!

Sign-up sheets can be found on the Information Center, via a link on the church website (sibleyfrc.org) under the

(Wednesday Bible Classes) <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1idJE4sd9Mktix67DTzefCymUv4HxMY5oyeAdFQsHQrU/edit#gid=0>

(Sunday School Classes) <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pBk1yqPAAqRRX6IQFsSIMqP7YLPWZq8Gyii2yzRZw4g/edit#gid=0>

Children & Worship) https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bfTwywspB9Nhy7rgoAy2PfcTgNfdlmeB7Vh9c_zmE/edit#gid=0

Our Outreach Team has purchased some Community Express Bus passes to be given to church family/individuals in need. If you would like a round-trip ticket or know of someone who could use one, please stop at the office.

Community Express

Voucher for Transportation
Provided to you by your local church
Thank you for riding!

Date _____
Signature _____



Mothers Together

With God in the Middle

Do you ever wish you had a place where you could connect with others who have experienced the same parenting issues that you have? Want some time to relax, recharge and make new friends? Then Mothers Together is just the place for you.

Mothers Together meets at First Reformed Church of Sibley from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on the **first and third Wednesdays of the month**. (Please take note of the change in weeks) Mothers Together provides excellent child care while moms get the break they deserve. Mothers Together is a non-denominational group. We hope you will make plans to join us!!

- **November 6: Operation Christmas Child Box Day!!!**
- **November 20: Join us for a fun and laughs as we do a T-Shirt Craft together**



Please remember the following Weather Cancellations Procedure:
**If there is NO school, or school is released early due to inclement weather,
there will be NO WEDNESDAY Night activities.**

**If the Cancellation is on Sunday, all services and activities will also be cancelled for the day.
Education Dates To Remember:**

- **Sunday, November 17 & 24 will be Christmas Program Practice during Sunday School Hour**
- **Wednesday, November 20 will be Christmas Program Practice**
 - **Wednesday, November 27 NO ACTIVITIES due to our Thanksgiving Eve Service which begins at 6:30pm**

College Addresses

Britta Harberts

917 5th Street NE
Sibley, IA 51249

Garrett Sayler

208 8th Street SW
Unit 846
Orange City, IA 51041

Andrea Meyer

1249 Eaton Lawther
Ames IA 50012-1064

Colby Wagenaar

203 4th Street
Brookings, SD 57006

Jena Van Marel

IMT at the Medical Center
8181 Fannin Street
Apt. 2531
Houston, TX 77054

Kailey Bruxvoort

317 N Dakota Street
Brookman 322
Vermillion, SD 57069

MaKayla Tangeman

9614 University Ave.
Unit 202 K
Cedar Falls, IA 50613-6702

Hunter DeJong

109 Wilder Place
Ames, IA 50014

Peyton Crichton

2001 S. Summit Ave
Mail Box 407
Sioux Falls, SD 57197

Lars Ackerman

519 8th St.
Sibley, IA 51249

Paige Hurlburt

416 N. Pine Street
Burgess-102
Vermillion, SD 57069

Kalie DeBoer

815 8th Street
Sibley, IA 51249

Nick Buysman

MSC 351
3900 Bethel Drive
Saint Paul, MN 55112

Jaden Abels

University of Sioux Falls
1101 W 22nd Street
Box 452
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Troy Soat

1101 W. 22nd Street
USF Box 451
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Tanner Dykstra

Sandoz Hall #424
820 N 17th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1277

Alyssa Wassman

Sweetland Hall 355
1441 Birch Street
Marshall, MN 56258

Alex Mc Dougall

107 Barton Anders
285 Richardson Ct Rm 107
Ames, IA 50013-0023

Jagger Johnson

535 S 17th Street
Apt. 210
Ames, IA 50010

Grant Brouwer

Dordt University
Box 2335
651 6th St. NE
Sioux Center, IA 51250

Leah Ackerman

Binnewies Hall #353
Brookings, SD 57007

Madeline Sayler

920 22nd St
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Cody Dykstra

1248 Friley Dodds
212 Beyer Ct. Rm 1248
Ames, IA 50012

Carson Van Westen

501 E. St. Joseph St.
RH1076
Rapid City, SD 57701

Ryan Van Marel

SDSU Box 2807
Room #0416 Young Hall
Brookings, SD 57007

If your student will have a different address for the 2019-2020 school year please let the office know.

PRAYER LIST

BE A
Prayer
WARRIOR

PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

1. Jamie and Jennifer Bruxvoort;
Kailey, Brayden, Logan Ella
2. Pray for our College Students
3. Pray for our Church
4. Jane Buysman
5. Nathan and Angie Buysman; Nick, Lydia
6. David and JoAnn Calsbeek
7. Margaret Calsbeek
8. Dale and Amy Carda; Faye
9. Pray for our College Students
10. Pray for our Church
11. Levi and Kira Christensen
12. Jenny Cuadros
13. Tom and Ruth Dagele
14. Jamie Daiker; Elliot, Olivia
15. Dale and Marilyn De Boer
16. Pray for our College Students
17. Pray for our Church
18. Larry and Melissa DeBoer;
Kalie, Jayden; Kendra
19. Le Roy and Glenda DeBoer
20. Marcus and Angie DeBoer
21. Joe and Nisa deBoom; Delaney; Danika
22. Heath and Wendy De Jong;
Hunter, Dahson, Jahlyn
23. Pray for our College Students
24. Pray for our Church
25. Nathan DeJong
26. Gary and Sandy De Vries
27. Stan and Abby De Zeeuw;
Keegan, Aiden, Joselyn, Addison
28. Glenn Coorenbos
29. Merlin and Karen Doorenbos
30. Paul Doorenbos

College Students:

Leah Ackerman

Michaela Block

Grant Brouwer

Cody Dykstra

Tanner Dykstra

Jagger Johnson

Alex Mc Dougall

Madeline Saylor

Lane Tangeman

Carson Van Westen

Alyssa Wassman

Paige Hurlburt

Kaitlyn Bechler

Kalie De Boer

Keyana Gust

Jaden Abels

Madison Norman

Nick Buysman

Hunter DeJong

Hunter Rockman

Ryan Van Marel

Lars Ackerman

Megan Travaille

Peyton Crichton

Britta Harberts

Andrea Meyer

Garrett Saylor

Makayla Tangeman

Colby Wagenaar

Kailey Bruxvoort

Sarah Hoppe

Jena Van Marel

Troy Soat

Hannah Lucas

PRAYER LIST

BE A
Prayer
WARRIOR
— Luke 22:32

PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Assisted Living

Ethel Jurgens
Geneva Wissink

The Nursing Homes

Dutch Kruger
Harold Schram
Margaret Calsbeek

Our Missionaries

Dr. Bernadeth Kelly &
Adrian Bobb
Sayuri Kist—Okazaki
Brian & Donna Renes
J.J. & Tim TenCley
Rowland & Jan Van Es

PRAYER JOURNAL

You can speak with
spiritual eloquence, pray
in public, and maintain
a holy appearance...
but it is your behavior
that will reveal your
true character.

- Steve Maraboli

www.stevemaraboli.com



~~Birthday's~~

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 Matthew McDougall | 14 Paul Doorenbos
Karla Crichton
Kelsey Kleinwolterink
Kendra Janssen | 24 Jen Schram
Braelyn Hurlburt |
| 2 Melissa De Boer | | 25 Carter Brouwer
Teddy Van Gelder |
| 3 Jennifer Bruxvoort
Lincoln McDyer | 15 Bobby Baker | 26 Mitch Ackerman |
| 4 Rodney Hulstein
Sami Fox | 16 Dalton Bremer
Jaeger Ackerman | 27 Geneva Wissink
Junior Rasmussen
Jagger Johnson
Alyssa Jacobsma |
| 5 Scott Hulstein
Jamie Hulstein
Hudson Feldkamp | 17 Dwayne Heikes | |
| 6 Parker Loerts | 18 Derek Heronimus
Jenny Tiedemann
A.J. Weg | 28 Carl Berkenpas
Dave Kleinwolterink |
| 7 Nisa de Boom
Wyatt Dykstra
Haley Klaassen | 19 Emily Feldkamp | 29 Cal Runia
Kevin Heemstra |
| 8 Lucille Groendyke | 20 Marvella Harberts
Amy Dykstra
Amelia Heilman | 30 Kaitlyn Mulder |
| 11 Dan Heilman | 21 Roger Iedema
Addysen Langstraat | |
| 13 Steve Van Kley
Marlin Roelfs
Tiffany Wynia
Jill Boeke
Anne Maxwell | 22 Nathan Buysman | |
| | 23 Maverick Elser
Kody Wills | |

Celebrations



~~Anniversaries~~

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| 3 Lawrence & Ruth Ann Wiersma | 41 yrs. |
| 3 Mitch & Angie Ackerman | 12 yrs. |
| 6 Paul & Phyllis Vander Linden | 55 yrs. |
| 14 Charlie & Brenda Ackerman | 27 yrs. |
| 17 Kevin & Nancy Soat | 30 yrs. |
| 19 Scott & Marlys Dykstra | 37 yrs. |
| 24 Dave & JoAnn Calsbeek | 52 yrs. |
| 25 Dale & Amy Carda | 2 yrs. |
| 26 Harold & Mim Ernst | 59 yrs. |

Sportsmen's Devotional



Bible Study Verses

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast.

(NIV)

Thoughts

Gifts come in many forms:

The gift of sight, to see the mountains and animals.

The gift of hearing, to hear a bull elk bugle or a goose calling.

The gift of the deer I killed that happened to be where I could see it.

So what is the gift from God?

(A) Grace

(B) Salvation

(C) Faith

(D) All of the above. You answer "D". Yep, you got it.

As the verse reads, the emphasis of the gift focuses on grace and faith. Romans 10:17 says that faith comes from hearing, and hearing from the word of God, the Bible. Therefore, by applying this principle, God gives us the faith to believe in Jesus; therefore, God gives us salvation from our sins; and, therefore, salvation is ours because of God's gift of grace. The overriding principle here is that all three are gifts from God.

God gave us the mountains, the rivers, the sea, the sky, and the animals that we enjoy. We didn't create them. Similarly, we can't "create" or earn our salvation. It comes from God and God alone.

By the way, I've often heard grace defined as "God's riches at Christ's expense." Good definition; but I believe one word should be changed and that the phrase should read, "God's redemption at Christ's expense." Either way, I want it!

Action Point

Unwrap God's presents to you today: faith, salvation, and grace. Accept that they are gifts, and that there is no repayment necessary; just believe in Christ and be saved.

Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

Give a gift to your children or grand children that they can't have any other way--the gift of your time in the outdoors. It's a gift they will never forget!

Trivia Time Answers!!!

1. Paul-John 11:43-45; Acts 20:7-12 2. Demetrius-Acts 19:24 3. Ezekial-Ezekiel 37:1-14 4. 33yrs-Gen 41:46 5. Learned Jew-Acts 18:24 6. Philip-Acts 8:26-35 7. Elisha-2 Kings 2:20-22 8. 120 yrs-Deuteronomy 34:7 9. Noah and it began to rain-Genesis 7:11



SHOEBOX STORIES

For children living in Molepolole, Botswana, receiving gifts is rare, so when Anitah attended a church outreach event she wasn't expecting the wonderful surprise that awaited her.

She experienced God's love when she received an [Operation Christmas Child](#) shoebox gift from a family on the other side of the world. The free gifts in her shoebox were a testament to her family and to her village of God's grace and the kindness and generosity of His people.

At the event she heard the Gospel and how God demonstrated His love through the free gift of His Son Jesus Christ, whom He sent to die for our sins and rise from the dead. "At the event we sang songs and we were told about Jesus," Anitah said. "I was so excited."

Her favorite toy in her shoebox was a jump rope. Anitah also received The Greatest Gift Gospel Booklet in her own language. This book will teach her more about what it means to follow Jesus Christ and trust Him with her life.

"I am so grateful for my shoebox. I'm so thankful for what Jesus has done."

*You can bless children around the world by prayerfully packing shoeboxes full of toys, school supplies, and hygiene items. **National Collection Week is coming up, Nov. 18-25!***



1. Find a Shoebox

Start with an average-size cardboard or plastic shoebox. If you want to wrap it, cover the box and lid separately.



2. Decide

2-4

5-9

10-14

Decide whether you will pack a box for a girl or a boy, and the age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14.



3. Fill with Gifts

Select a medium to large “wow” item such as a soccer ball with pump or stuffed animal, then fill with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies.



4. Pray

Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift. You can also include a personal note and photo.



5. Follow Your Box Labels

Donate \$9 online and receive a label Follow Your Box and discover the destination of your shoebox gift.



6. Drop-off

Take your shoebox gift to First Reformed Church by November 17th!!



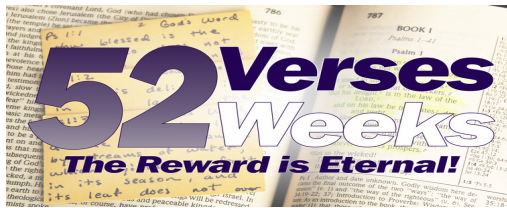


So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11(NLT)

We hope you are remembering your Secret Sister in your prayers as well as with acts of kindness. Secret Sisters is a great way to encourage someone and lift them up.

Thanks for participating Sisters!!!




November 3: “Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn.” – Psalm 37:4, NIV

November 10: “Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.” – John 16:24b, ESV

November 17: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” – John 3:16, KJV

November 24: “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”- 1 John 4:7, NKJV


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 NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION



THE STORY

THE BIBLE AS ONE CONTINUING STORY OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

SERMON SERIES



FOREWORD BY
 MAX LUCADO & RANDY FRAZEE

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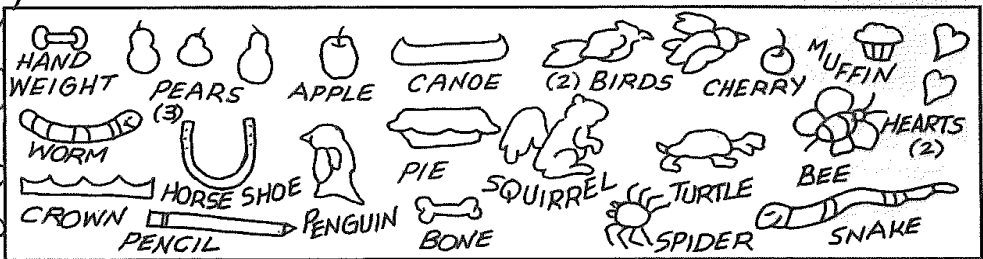
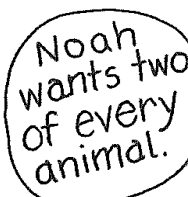
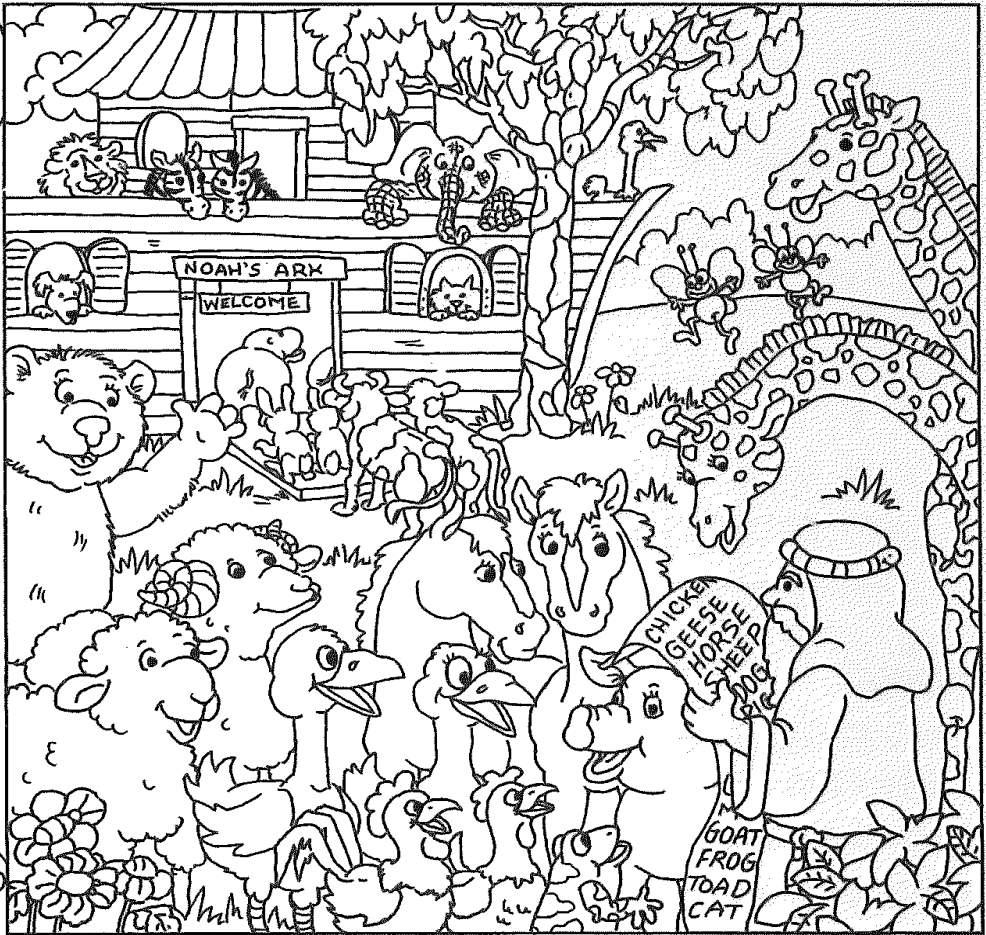
January 5, 2020

							2
		4		2		3	
			3	9	7		
	4		5		1	6	
		6	8		4	5	
	3	1		2			4
		3	7	6			
	7		1		8		
4							

(Read the story in Genesis 6)

When the ark was ready, God made animals, birds and creeping things come. Noah, his family, and the animals went into the ark.

Find the hidden pictures below in the puzzle.



JJ and Tim Tenclay



I continue to serve as a missionary and Refugee Ministries Coordinator for RCA Global Mission. My family and I returned to the U.S. after serving migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Italy for four years last July, so we have now been back in the U.S. for just over a year. What an amazing but difficult year it has been! We continue to miss the people we came to love dearly during our time in Italy, and continue to do as much as we can to support them spiritually, emotionally and economically; they are a continuous reminder to us as to why caring for refugees and displaced people is not only the right thing to do in the midst of a humanitarian crisis, but the faithful response to the many, many teachings in our scripture on caring for the foreigner, the widow, the orphan, those enslaved and oppressed, and ultimately, to love our neighbors as ourselves. I am filled with joy and hope when I meet with people from the RCA and other sister denominations throughout North America and listen to their stories of how they are blessing those in their communities and around the world who have left their homes seeking refuge...it is humbling to sit with someone who breaks down in tears after realizing—sometimes for the first time—the immense pain, fear and hardships a person forced to flee their home faces...it is sacred to meet others who themselves have been forcibly displaced from their homes and listen to them share their stories of God's providence in the midst of their past, present and continued struggles, as well as thanking God for the ways they are using their gifts and skills to make this world—so loved by God—a better place.

Despite all the joy and hope I have experienced in the past year, I have also experienced deep pain and concern, both personally and professionally. In June the UNHCR released their latest report on statistics and analysis on the global phenomenon of forced displacement of people, and we know that at the end of 2018 over 70.8 million people living in our world have been forcibly displaced and are in search of refuge. It is difficult to hear numbers like this and not feel overwhelmed...it is even more difficult to be one of the 70.8 million people forced from home to begin a difficult and dangerous journey to find a place to rest or rebuild, to find the resources to sustain your life and the lives of your loved ones, to find people willing to greet you with kindness and compassion and say, "you are welcomed here." We, as Christians, have so much more work to do to build a safer, more compassionate world for all, and to care for those seeking refuge—whether they live in our communities or halfway around the world. Is it a big task? Yes. Do we serve a bigger God who—not only calls us to this work, but equips us with the gifts, skills and resources to engage in this work? Absolutely.

In June my older brother, Jeff, died unexpectedly. My family and I have made a couple of trips back to Iowa for his funeral and to spend time with family since this tragedy, but I realize now that I have not taken any real time this summer for myself to process the loss and grief. I look forward to taking some time off here and there between now and the end of the year to rejuvenate myself and to spend time with my husband and children, who have also experienced incredible highs and incredible lows over the past year as we've transitioned back to living in the U.S.

I would like to remind everyone that I continue to work with Partners Relief & Development to raise \$40,000 to rebuild a school in Iraqi Kurdistan and to provide intense trauma care to Yazidi children in the region. We started fundraising for this project at the end of May, but unfortunately, we have only raised approximately \$15,000 so far.

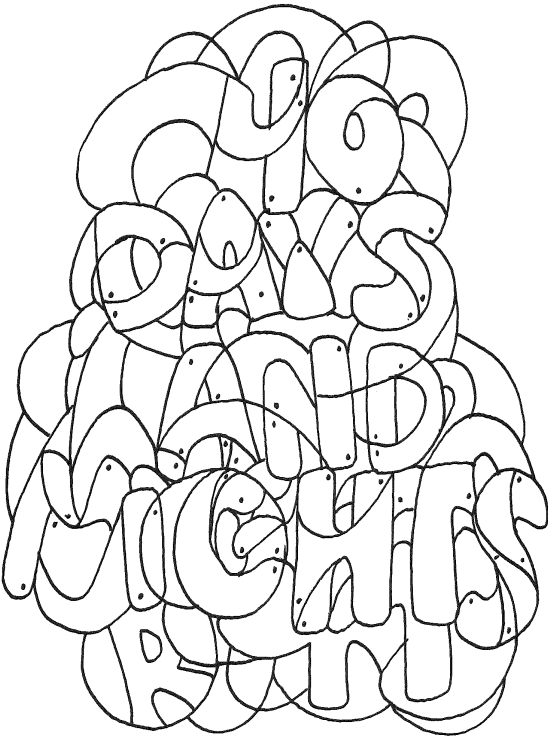
I will end with a plea from a colleague and former RCA missionary, Rev. Richard Otterness. Richard was diagnosed with stage 5 Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and is in search of a kidney donor. If you—are anyone you know—is interested in learning more about Richard's story, about how to support Richard and his family during this difficult time, or to learn more about being tested as a potential kidney donor, please visit the Facebook page "[Richard's Kidney Journey](#)" or contact his daughter, Anne Otterness, at anneotterness7@gmail.com.

FRC

Flashback Fun

The above photo was published in a previous newsletter and we have been asked for names of the women in the picture. Here are the ones we know: 1. Barb Van Diepen 2. Shirley Hindt 3. ? 4. Arlene Kuehl 5. Leanne Van Kley 6. Leona Eben 7. Jeannette Juffer 8. Sharon Bartels 9. Jeanette Groenenboom 10. Lila Van Dyk

How long did it rain?
Color in the spaces with dots to read the answer.





Church Christmas Decorating November 27th after the Thanksgiving Eve Service!!

Elder/Deacon District 2 is in charge of decorating this year.

Families in this district are those listed between Margaret Calsbeek and Harold and Luella Eggink in the directory. Your Elder/Deacon Leaders are Duane Vande Hoef and Scott Hulstein.

If you have any questions please contact the office. Thanks!



Children's Program

Practice Times:

Sundays at 10:10 am:

November 17, 24

December 1, 8, 15

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm:

November 20

December 4, 11

