

Newsletter

FAMILY BUCKET LIST

- ___ GO APPLE PICKING
- MAKE APPLE CRISP
- ___ DIV FALL CRAFTS
- ___ WATCH FOOTBALL
- VISIT PUMPKIN PATCH
- ___ GET LOST IN A CORN MAZE
- ___ GO ON A HAVRIDE
- CARVE A PUMPKIN
- ___ MAKE HALLOWEEN COSTUME
- DIV HALLOWEEN CRAFTS
- TRICK OR TREATING
- WATCH HALLOWEED MOVIES
- ___ DRINK APPLE CIDER
- BAKE HALLOWEEN TREATS
- ___ PLAY OUTSIDE
- DIV THANKSGIVING CRAFTS
- ___ EAT THANKSGIVING DINNER
- ___ VISIT THE FAIR
- MAKE S'MORES

Created by: TerrellFamilyFun.c **Glorify** God in all we do, **Grow** with Him daily & **Go** with Him to share His love.

October at a Glance

- 2: 9:00qm Coffee with the Pastor
 - 9:00qm Mothers Together will meet
- 6: World Wide Communion Sunday
- 21: 9:00 am Faith Bible Study
- 3:00 pm Patience Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Elder/Deacon Meetings
- 7:00 pm Full Consistory
- 30: 5-7pm Harvest Festival (Trunk or Treat)
 - 2:00pm FRC is in charge of Nursing Home Services

*Sunday Mornings:

- 9:00 am Cornerstone Service
- 10:10 gm Coffee Fellowship
- 10:10 am Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am Open Door Service
- *Monday Evenings:
 - Women's Bible Study is on Symmer 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 for HS and Adults 7:30-8:30 pm HS Remnant

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



View our Website at: sibleyfrc.org



We have now entered into the fall activities. School has started, band and sports activities are filling our schedules and our new Bible class and Sunday School year has begun. Soon the harvest will begin and there will be a busyness to every-body's schedule. It is my personal goal that as we enter into this new church year you will be challenged in your faith, to grow closer to Christ, and be bolder in sharing the beautiful story of Jesus Christ.

Speaking of the story of Jesus Christ, we will begin a new adventure in January. Over the next two years the goal is to move through the entirety of the Bible. We will do so with a chronological order of the scriptures in a book called "The Story " by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee. We will have opportunity to see the story as God laid it out, that ultimately will transform us because of His deep love for us all.

We will spend 31 weeks over the next two years moving through God's Word. It will be broken down into 4 sermon series, with each series being about 7-8 weeks long. As well as sermons we are calling for you to go deeper. We are working to establish life groups where each week during the series you will meet to talk, discover and be challenged by God's Word. Opportunities will be available on Sundays as well as other days of the week.

We want to encourage you to study as spouses, families, men's groups, women's groups, couple's groups or whatever else you would choose. Our main goal is that you dig into the Word of God. Starting in January, we want to encourage any small groups already meeting, to consider using "The Story" as your study. We will provide materials for anyone who might need them. We are also encouraging all to have "The Story" to read along with. We will provide several free copies as we get closer.

Here is what is written about "The Story" by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee.

"This book tells the grandest, most compelling story of all time: the story of a true God who loves his children, who established for them a way of salvation and provided a route to eternity. Each story in these 31 chapters reveals the God of grace-the God who speaks; the God who acts; the God who listens; the God whose love for his children culminated in His sacrifice of Jesus, His only Son, to atone for the sins of humanity. What's more: this same God is alive and active today-still listening, still acting, still pouring out His grace on us. His grace extends to our daily foibles: our ups, downs, and inbetweens; our moments of questions and fears; and most important, our response to His call on our lives. He's the same God who forgave David's failures and rescued Jonah from the dark belly of a fish. This same heavenly Father who shepherded the Israelites through the wilderness desires to shepherd us through our wanderings, to help us get past our failures and rescue us for eternity. It's our prayer that these stories will encourage you to listen for God's call on your life, as He helps you write your own story."

Over the next couple of months you will continue to hear more about "The Story". I want to challenge you to go beyond a Sunday morning and commit to being part of a discussion centered around God's Word. There is no greater joy than to discover how God's Word can speak to us.

Praying for you!!!

Pastor Luke

It's Coffee Time! With the Pastor!! Come join Pastor Luke and Josh for coffee at 9 am on October 2nd

We would love to see you all!

Stewardship & Giving

Special offering for September: Talking Bibles

Offering Summary through September 23rd

- General Fund: \$232,467.94; Budget: \$279,866; 83% of budget
- Benevolent Fund: \$41558.12,; Budget: 86,813.00; 47% of budget
- Building Fund offerings to date:\$1480

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. Questions? Contact Peg Van Kley

Faith In Action for October: Center of Hope



Clean your closets and bring any winter coats, scarves, mittens and caps, that are in good shape, to church. They will be put to good use.

Trivia Time!!!

 Someone came to Pilate and begged for the body of the crucified Jesus. Who was he?
 In what book of the Bible do you find the following words? "For God shall bring every work into judgment with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."
 What was Lot's relationship with Abraham?
 What is the name of the town that is called "City of Palm Trees"?
 Shem is to Noah as David is to _____?
 What was Jacob's relationship to Laban?
 What is the name of the first New Testament martyr?
 Name the pool that had five porches.
 Which cam first --the Tower of Babel or the Flood?

Cornerstone Service Greeters, 9 am

- 6: West— Trudy Dykstra and Anita Ernst Middle—Harold and Luella Eggink East— Harold and Mim Ernst
- 13: West— Henry and Barb Fisher
 Middle— Jacob and Sami Fox/family
 East— Michelle Fox and Rhonda Henrichs
- 20: West— Gert Gaalswyk and Jamie Daiker/family Middle— Eugene and Renae Groen East— Robert and Janice Groen
- 27: West— Ed and Jan HarskampMiddle— Bill and LaDonn HartzellEast— Ron and Nancy Dykstra

- 9:00 am Nursery
- 6: Pam Vande Hoef
- 13: Peg Van Kley
- 20: Ruth Ann Wiersma
- 27: Jan Henrichs

Library Volunteers



- 6: Jan Juffer
- 13: Jeannette Juffer
- 20: Leona Meendering
- 27: LaVonne Prins

Sunday School Nursery



- 6: Melissa and Kendra De Boer
- 13: Melissa and Emma Langstraat
- 20: Kathy Runia and Abby Kreykes
- 27: Wendy and Jahlyn De Jong

11:00 am Nursery

- 6: Kathy Verdoorn and Marcia Van Ruler
- 13: Jennifer and Ella Bruxvoort
- 20: Tanya and Makya Dykstra
- 27: Amy Van Marel and Mary Hustoft



Prayer With the Elders

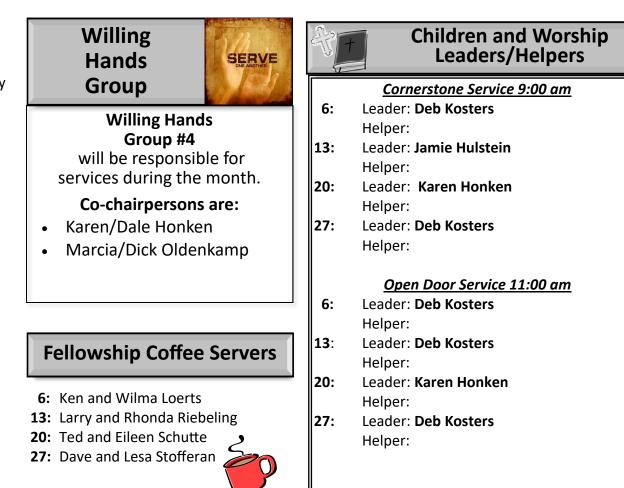
<u>10:00</u>

- 6: Harold Ernst
- 13: Lawrence Wiersma
- 20: Dale Honken
- 27: Bill Hartzell

<u>12:00</u>

- 6: Dr. Greg Kosters
- 13: Marlin Roelfs
- 20: Duane Vande Hoef
- 27: Dick Oldenkamp





After Church Greeters

- 6: SE: Josh Lucas
 - C: Ron Dykstra
 - SW: Henry fisher
 - BE: Lennis Harberts BW: Pastor Luke
- 13:SE: Pastor Luke C: Josh Lucas SW: Harold Ernst
 - BE: Ed Harskamp BW: Bill Hartzell

- 20:SE: Dale Honken
 - C: Pastor Luke
 - SW: Josh Lucas
 - BE: Dr. Greg Kosters
 - BW: Arnie Langstraat
- 27: SE: Ken Loerts
 - C: Dick Oldenkamp
 - SW: Pastor Luke
 - **BE:** Josh Lucas
 - **BW: Lyle Peelen**

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, October 21 at 9:00 am** in the Library. Lesson leader will be Luella Eggink and Jan Harskamp will serve as hostess. We will study lesson 3, "Seek and Live in God's Wisdom," in the book <u>Busyness</u> by Juanita Ryan. Scripture for the lesson is from James 1:1-5 & 3:13-17. Our theme is Busyness, 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, October 21 at our <u>new time</u> 3:00 pm. Barb will serve as lesson leader and hostess. We will study lesson #8,"Hosea and Gomer" in the book , <u>Couples of the Old Testament.</u>



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 <u>Boundaries</u> 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 <u>*Crossing the Waters*</u> by Leslie Leyland Field via Right Now Media. Please join us for this new video series.

<u>The Women's Sunday Moring Bible Study</u>, will begin on Sunday, September 8 at 10:10 am in the northside of the west end of the Fellowship Hall. Please continue to watch the bulletin for more updates on this opportunity.

Men's Bible Study



The Men's Bible Study, who meets on the south side of the west end of the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings at <u>10:10 am</u>, 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,

As most of you know Joanna Grace just turned six months this last September 20th and she is growing so fast. I saw something so interesting the other day when I was playing with her. While we were playing together I noticed she was putting all of her toys in her mouth, and so I had a thought, "What if I put these toys in my mouth that she is not playing with? Maybe she will mimic me or maybe she would laugh." I picked up a toy that she had not played with or even looked at for probably five minutes and I put it in my mouth. The next thing I knew she saw me and she took her toy that she had out of her mouth and dropped it and grabbed the toy I had in my mouth and she started putting that toy in her mouth. I picked up another toy and put it in my mouth she dropped her toy and grabbed mine out of my mouth and put it in hers. This happened for some good solid ten minutes straight and every time no matter what toy it was if I had it in my mouth she had to take it from me and put it in hers.

Now there is nothing wrong with this in any way. In fact, I had a blast as it made me laugh in the moment. However, I came to a realization. I was reminded of how much we need Jesus. When something does not go our way or someone else has something that we want, we need to have it or we think we need to take it from them. Instead of being content with what we have we tend to tell God how to do his work and to give us more. James 3:14-16 says, "But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice." Just like Joanna's selfish side did not want me to have that toy, we too want all the glory, all the praise, and all of the control. Remember, Church, we are not the ones in control here, God is. Turn towards Jesus, give up everything to him, and have trust that he will make it all work out the way as he wills it. Don't be jealous of what other people have. Just be content with what you have. God gives you all that you need! I just wanted to share that story with all of you and hope that you are blessed by it.

Youth Group is off to a great start! We kicked things off with a joint Youth Night for the kids in the community with the Presbyterian and Baptist Churches (the other churches did not accept our invitation). We had over 100 students in attendance and they had a blast! We are meeting every Wednesday night 6:30-7:30 for Jr High Remnant and 7:30-8:30 High School Remnant! If you ever need a hug this big ole teddy bear has got one for you!

Blessings, Josh Lucas

Jokes with Josh:

Q: How do you tell the difference between an alligator and a crocodile? A: You will see one later and one in a while.



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) <u>https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/</u> d/1idJE4sd9Mktix67DTzefCymUv4HxMYSoyeAdFQsHQrU/edit#gid=0

(Sunday School Classes) https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/ d/1pBk1yqPAAqRRX6lQFsSIMqP7YLPWZq8Gyii2yzRZw4g/edit#gid=0

Children & Worship) https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/ d/1bfTwywspB9NhY7rgojAy2PfjcTgNfdImeB7Vh9c_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 roundtrip ticket, please stop at the office.





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!!

- October 2nd: Mom's morning out. We will see you at the Lantern!
 - October 9th: Fall craft day!

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 (HRISTIAN EDUCATION WEDNESDAY Night activities. If the Cancellation is on Sunday, all services and activities will also be cancelled for the day.

Education Dates To Remember:

- Wednesday, October 30 Harvest Festival (no classes)
- Sunday School Classes & Children & Worship normal schedule

Teachers are needed!! Please use the links found in this newsletter to access the Google Docs for Sunday School as well as Wednesday night Bible Class Signups. You can also access those signups via our website by clicking on the Children tab or by checking the Information Center in the Fellowship Hall.



Sarah Hoppe 1513 So. Grand Ave. Apt. 203 Ames, IA 50010-6649

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

PRAYER LIST BE A WARRIOR

PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

- 1. Gary and Jessa Wolter
- 2. Renae Wolter
- Chris and Tiffany Wynia; Elizabeth, Codie, Mackenzie
- 4. Charlie and Brenda Ackerman; Leah, Marissa
- 5. Pray for our College Students
- 6. Pray for our Church
- 7. Dean and Michelle Ackerman
- 8. Derek and Megan Ackerman
- 9. Mitch and Angie Ackerman; Lars
- 10. Terry and Chrissy Ackerman; Zoe, Jaeger
- 11. Brian and Chelsey Alexander; Kimberlie, Riley
- 12. Pray for our College Students
- 13. Pray for our Church
- 14. Brian and Elia Althoff; Will, Gracia
- 15. Bobby and Dee Baker

- 16. John and Sharon Bartels
- 17. Gretchen Bartelson
- 18. Davis and Kristen Beyer; MacKenzie, Aidan, Dawson, Easton, Kavan, Tayah
- 19. Mike and Andrea Block; Michaela, Michael
- 20. Pray for our College Students
- 21. Pray for our Church
- 22. Troy and Meggan Block; Halle, Brady, Kolby
- 23. Travis and Jill Boeke; Emma
- 24. Jerry and Sylvia Bosma
- 25. Tammy Breitweiser; Andrea Leusink
- 26. Pray for our College Students
- 27. Pray for our Church
- 28. Daphne Bremer; Dalten, Tayler
- 29. Randy Bremer
- 30. Marlys Brink
- 31. Jerrad and Tracee Brouwer; Grant, Carter, Madison

College Students:

Leah Ackerman Michaela Block Grant Brouwer Cody Dykstra Tanner Dykstra Jagger Johnson Alex Mc Dougall Madeline Sayler 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 Sayler Makayla Tangeman Colby Wagenaar Kailey Bruxvoort

Sarah Hoppe Jena Van Marel Troy Soat

Hannah Lucas



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



~~Bírthday's~~

- 1. Russell Gaalswyk Katie Kruger
- 2. Leona Meendering Joanne Klaassen Peg Van Kley
- 3. Jada Wills
- 4. Eugene Groen Gretchen Bartelson
- 5. Pam Kruger
- 6. Karen Doorenbos Will Altoff
- 7. Marcus De Boer
- 8. Jane Buysman Harvey Van Ruler Alecia Martinez Megan Travaille
- 9. Renae Wolter Addison Mc Dyer Logan Ver Steeg

- 10. Ethel Jurgens Carol Iedema Ken Heronimus Gina Jacobsma
- 11. Britta Harberts Marlin Runia Marissa Ackerman
- 12 Dr. Greg Kosters
- 13 Jerry Bosma
- 14 Cliff Mehls Derek Ackerman
- 15 Nathan Kraayenbrink
- 16 Elijiah Sayler Levi Sayler
- 17 Marlys Brink

- 18 Jason Jacobsma
- 19 Addison Weg
- 21 Kolby Block Cavell Van Westen
- 22 Elizabeth Hibma
- 23 Halle Block Kira Christensen
- 27 Pauline Van Engen Kaylee Maxwell
- 29 Janice Runia LeRoy Stevenson Jodie Kruger
- 30 Duane Vande Hoef
- 31 Cole Dykstra Collin Van Diepen

~~Anníversaríes~~

2 Cory & Amy Dykstra 4 Alan & Lacey Julius	
5 Gary & Sandy De Vries	46 years
6 Jerry & Sylvia Bosma	58 years
8 Clint & Jamie Klaassen	3 years
10 Dale & Marilynn De Boer	57 years
11 Joe & Nisa de Boom	16 years
12 Levi & Kira Christensen	6years
13 Cory & Anne Maxwell	18 years
17 Ben & Rachel Waits	10 years
20 Terry & Chrissy Ackerman	12 years
20 Dwayne & Janice Heikes	40 years
21 Dan and Maureen Heilman	13 years
31 Cal & Kathy Runia	4 years

Sportsmen's Devotional

Bible Study Verse

Deuteronomy 18:10-14

There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you. You shall be blameless before the Lord your God. For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the Lord your God has not appointed such for you. (NKJV)

Thoughts

Years ago many a deer hunt was right before Halloween. As a kid couldn't be at two places at one time, so I went hunting.

One Halloween we were butchering 3 deer in one evening. Unfortunately we ran out of butcher paper, so I ran to pick more up at the store. The other two men couldn't keep butchering and answer the door to pass out candy so they ended visitation. They place a deer head with its horns sawed off at the end of the driveway until I found it in my returning headlights.

As I removed the scary creature to oblivion I promised myself that we'd never butcher another deer on Halloween with the butcher boys again. It worked as a fright, not one child or teenager came up to the porch after that display. It's unsettling to think what the neighbors might have thought or the nightmares created.

Action Point

Just as the butcher boys made a poor choice on deflecting visitation, it brings to mind the verse that says, "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea," Matthew 18:6 (NKJV). Hopefully they didn't cause a frightened little one to sin. But how many of our poor choices caused another to stumble?

The above scripture is pretty clear on what any of us should not be doing within the spiritual realm. Notice "one who practices witchcraft" has no exceptions for white, black, or Wicca. We're to walk in HIS light and with our faith in JESUS CHRIST not by what today's horoscope reflects.

The final tests are to take every thought captive to Christ and line up every question to GOD's Living Holy WORD. We become free in CHRIST when we bow at HIS throne and humbly ask for HIS forgiveness no matter what has been in the past!!!

Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

By cutting up our own deer, we diligently removed all fat before packaging. The strong gamey taste was removed with the fat. Many a chuckle was created when friends enjoyed the steak that couldn't have been wild game meat.

Trivia Time Answers!!!

1. Joseph of Arimathea - Matthew 27:57,58 2. Ecclesiastes - Ecclesiastes 12:14 3. His nephew - genesis 12:5 4. Jericho - Deuteronomy 34:3 5. Jesse (son to father) - Gen 5:32 / Acts 13:22 6. Nephew and son-in-law Gen 28:1-2 29:16-28 7. John the Baptist - Matt 14:10 8. The pool at Bethesda - John 5:2 9. The Flood Gen 7-9, Gen 11





Désiré -and-The Yo-yo

God used a simple light-up yo-yo to remind me of His love.

I remember walking every day to school when I was young. Most of the time I went without any lunch because my parents couldn't afford to feed all of us a lunch. I was one of seven children, and we lived in a very poor area of Burkina Faso.

It was hard to even earn enough money for food, and nobody had money for gifts at Christmas. My parents did not buy things like toys or even many books to read.

When I received my first gift, it was in an Operation Christmas Child shoebox, and it was a real blessing for me. We also listened to a presentation of the Gospel, and I received a copy of the Greatest Gift booklet. Though I



had already accepted Christ a couple years earlier and grown up in church, I was excited to read that book over and over to learn more about Him. I couldn't wait to see what was inside my shoebox, but I also looked forward to what God was going to do in my life.

When I received my first gift, it was in an Operation Christmas Child shoebox, and it was a real blessing for me.

We did not open our boxes at the event. We wanted to share the experience with our family. When I got home I opened the box up and saw all those wonderful gifts. There were toys and books, and what I especially enjoyed was my yo-yo. It was a special yo-yo, because at night it would just light up my dark neighborhood.

I wasn't just excited about having new toys and new things, though. I was also excited because I was surprised to receive a gift from people I didn't know and might never meet. Honestly, I had never received a gift in my life, and I never expected it.

So, when Operation Christmas Child told me that people from the other side of the world cared about me, it helped me to experience even more thankfulness for God's faithfulness toward me. Who would ever think that God would use a simple light-up yo-yo in a shoebox to remind me of His love?

I think back to that Saturday morning and to all the ways God has continued to be faithful to me since then. God has even used me to share His love with others in my country. A few years after receiving that shoebox I began another journey I didn't expect. When I was 12 years old I started a children's ministry in my neighborhood to teach others about Jesus Christ. Since then I've been able to share the love of God throughout my neighborhood and in many villages in Burkina Faso.

More recently, I've been involved in evangelism and discipleship as part of Operation Christmas Child. As I've taught The Greatest Journey discipleship program throughout my country, I have seen God change the hearts of many children. I've seen nine churches started as a result of Gospel seeds planted through The Greatest Journey project.

"Through one of these simple gifts God opened more of my heart to Him and to telling others about Him."

Today I live in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where I attend Bible college and am learning to be an even better teacher of God's Word. I am so grateful to the many, many people who pack Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, because through one of these simple gifts God opened more of my heart to Him and to telling others about Him. And thank you for praying for God to work through Operation Christmas Child and for praying for kids to become disciples and disciplemakers like He made me.





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!!!



October 6: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom..." – Colossians 3:16, KJV

October 13: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." – Hebrews 13:8, KJV

October 20: "They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." - Isaiah 40:31, KJV

October 27: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." – John 14:27, NIV



Beginning on October 2nd we will be offering a Membership/Church Knowledge Discovery Class for High School students as well as any Adult that is interested in learning more about the Reformed Church and our beliefs. This is pretty much the same class that is offered on Sunday mornings for our 7th and 8th Graders except geared toward HS and Adults. Here is the following schedule for the class for October:

Oct 2: History/Structure Oct 9: Heidelberg Catechism/Belhar Confession Oct 16: Belgic Confession/Canons of Dort

Oct 23: Creeds

Oct 30: No Class (Harvest Festival)



Harvest Festival Games October 30, 2019 HOT Prizes 5-7pm

Trunk

or

Treat

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Dogs

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From the library--

Here is synopsis from two more new library books. The first one, though based on real events, is considered a fiction. The second book NEVER LET GO will keep you intrigued.



INDIVISIBLE by Travis Thrasher is inspired by true events. INDIVISIBLE is a story of love, service, and finding each other all over again. Darren and Heather Turner share a passion for serving God, family, and country. When Darren is deployed to Iraq as an army chaplain, Heather vows to serve military families back home as she cares for the couple's three young children.

Darren knows he's overseas to support the troops in their suffering as their chaplain. What he doesn't know is how he will get through his own dark moments. And as communication from Darren dwindles, Heather wonders what is happening in her husband's heart. Meanwhile, she's growing weary in the day-to-day life of a military base—each child's milestone Darren will never see, each month waiting for orders, each late-night knock on the door.

When Darren returns, he is no longer the husband Heather once knew. She is no longer the woman Darren wed. And so it's at home that the Turners face their biggest battle: to save their marriage.



NEVER LET GO by Elizabeth Goddard Forensic genealogist Willow Anderson is following in her late grandfather's footsteps in her quest for answers about a baby abducted from a hospital more than twenty years ago. When someone makes an attempt on Willow's life to keep her from discovering the truth, help will come from an unexpected source. Ex-FBI agent—and Willow's ex-flame—Austin McKade readily offers to protect the woman he never should have let get away. Together they'll follow where the clues lead them, even it if means Austin must face the past he's spent much of his life trying to forget—and put Willow's tender heart at risk.

Be sure to peruse the Church Library and check out books by removing the card from inside the book, **WRITING YOUR NAME AND THE DATE DUE** (two weeks from the day) **ON THE CARD AND PLACING IT IN THE FRONT OF THE YELLOW BOX.** Thanks!!

~~Jeannette Juffer



Consistory Meeting Highlights

Special Elder Meeting, September 15 at 8:10am

• MMSC to receive by profession of faith into membership of First Reformed Church, Dahson DeJong at the September 15th 11:00am Open Door Service.

Elder Meeting, 6:00 pm

- MMSC to approve church use to Kelsey Joseph for FRC to serve as host site for previewing a video called "New Roots Haiti."
- MMSC to have available Elders sit in on Pastor Luke's 7th and 8th Grade Discovery Class.
- MMSC to have the Administrative Team set the date and time for the 2019 congregational meeting.

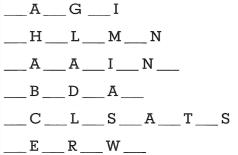
Full Consistory, 7:20 pm

- MMSC to have one service on December 15, 2019 at 9:00am. The Sunday School Christmas Program will be held at 11:00 that morning.
- A Discovery Class for High School and Adults will be meeting on Wednesday nights at 6:30 for those interested in church membership. First Class will meet on October 2nd.
- MMSC to permit Papito to place a written request in church mailboxes followed by a "Minute for Mission" at a later date for backpacks and supplies for "Psalm 3 Ministry." All donations from members should be given to Papito directly rather than going through the offering. Checks can be made out to Ellison Joseph/Psalm 3 Ministry.
- MMSC to advertise and encourage a work trip to meet clean up needs in Sioux Falls, as soon as possible.
- MMSC to approve the second reading of an amendment to the bylaws as follows: Article 2 Organization, Section 5, No Church member of immediate family relationship (brother, sister, parent/child, husband/wife, brother-in-law, sister-in-law) are to serve on Consistory at the same time. Church Staff family members (husband, wife, parent or child) are also not eligible for nomination to Consistory.



Missing pages

Every other letter has been omitted from these Books of the Bible. How quickly can you fill in the blanks?







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