

Easter Joy

**Jesus came to earth,
to show us how to live
How to put others first,
How to love and how to give**

**He could have saved Himself,
Calling angels from above,
But He chose to pay our price for sin;
He paid it out of love.**

**Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
that fills our hearts with joy.**

**So we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.
Help us love like you!**

April at a Glance

- 1: 7 pm Maundy Thursday
- 4: 7:30 am Sunrise Service
- 9:00 am Combined Easter Worship
- 7: 9:00 am Mothers Together Meets
 - No Congregational Care meeting
- 13: 6:00 pm Elder/Deacon Meetings
 - 7:00 pm Full Consistory will meet
- 19: 9:30 am: Faith Bible Study
 - 3:00 pm: Patience Bible Study
- 21: 9:00 am: Mothers Together Meets
- 25: Compassion Sunday

*Sundays:

- 9:00am Cornerstone Service
- 10:10am Sunday School for 4yr-Adults
- 10:10 am Fellowship Hour (no coffee)
- 11:00am Open Door Service

*Monday Evenings:

Ladies Monday Night Bible Study is on hold for this month

*Tuesday mornings:

Chickadee Quilters is on hold for now

*Wednesday Evening Bible Classes and Youth Groups:

- 6:30-7:30 pm Bible Classes Gr.1-5
- 6:30-7:30 pm MS Remnant
- 7:30-8:30 pm HS Remnant

CONTACT INFORMATION:
712-754-2783

sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com

View our Website at: sibleyfrc.org





Stewardship & Giving

Offering Summary through March 22:

- General Fund: \$85,591.88
Budget: \$299,173.35; 28% of budget
- Benevolent Fund: \$10,181.20
Budget: \$71,025.61; 14% of budget
- Building Fund offerings to date: \$610

Special offering for March: Vacation Bible School



Faith In Action for



April:



FRC Kitchen

We will be collecting items that will be put to use in our church kitchen. Items needed are: napkins, paper towels, Dawn dish soap, Clorox wipes or some other type of disinfecting wipes, scouring pads etc.

Maybe you have worked in the kitchen and know of something that would be useful that you would like to bring.

All items are appreciated!



Easter Services

April 1:

7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service

April 4:

7:30 am Sunrise Service

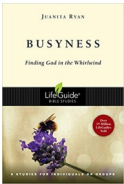
9:00 Combined Easter Worship Service



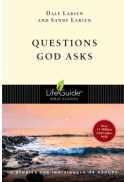
Bible Study Opportunities

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, April 19 at 9:30 am** in the Fireside Room. The lesson leader will be Lynn with Jeannette serving as hostess. Please bring your own beverage. We will be studying lesson 7, "Labor in Love" in our study book, Busyness. Scripture for the morning comes from Colossians 2:6, 20-23; 3:1-17. Please come ready to make a decision on what to study next.



Patience Bible Study, who meets the third Monday of most months, will meet on **Monday, April 19 at 3:00 pm** in the Fireside Room. We will continue our new book, Questions God Asks, by David and Sandy Larsen. Barb will lead lesson #4, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face?" Please bring your own beverage, if you want one. Barb will bring a snack. Come and join us!



Sunday Morning Men's Bible Study Group: Please keep an eye on your bulletins for updated information for the month of April.



For behold, the winter is
past; the rain is over and
gone. The flowers appear
on the earth, the time of
singing has come, and the
voice of the turtledove is
heard in our land.
Song of Solomon 2:11-12



Cornerstone Service Greeters

1: 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday

E: Burt and Jan Henrichs

C: Gretchen Bartelson

W: Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar

4: 9:00 am Combined Worship

E: Justin and Angela Van Tilburg/family

C: Josh and Hannah Lucas/family

W: Larry and Rhonda Riebeling

11: E: Pam Kruger

C: Chris and Teresa Hurlburt

W: Paige Hurlburt

18: E: Scott and Jamie Hulstein/family

C: Joel and Kathy Verdoorn

W: Jeannette Jufer

25: E: Joanne Klassen

C: Jodene Kruse

W: Leona Meendering



Will Meet at 9:00am on:
April 7 and 21.

Please join us as we continue our Right
Now Media Video Study, "No More
Perfect Moms" by Jill Savage.

A great place to take that much
needed "Mom" time while your kiddos
are watched by our expert caregivers!!

Children & Worship Schedule



9:00am

11:00am

4: No C&W due to Easter 7: No C&W due to Easter

11: Deb Kusters

11: Deb Kusters

18: Deb Kusters

18: Deb Kusters

25: Deb Kusters

25: Deb Kusters

Willing Hands Group



Willing Hands Group #4

will be responsible for
services during the month.

Co-chairpersons are:

- Marcia/Dick Oldenkamp
- Karen/Dale Honken

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 _____



Library Volunteers



- 4: Leona Meendering
- 11: Janice Runia
- 18: Jen Schram
- 25: Pauline Van Engen

Fellowship Coffee Servers



No Coffee Fellowship at this time.

Nursery

The Nursery will be open for use,
but unstaffed.

Easter Trivia Time!!!

1. At Christ's crucifixion what did the soldiers place on his head?
2. For what of Christ's did the soldiers cast lots?
3. For how many pieces of silver did Judas betray Christ?
4. How did Judas betray Christ?
5. Christ was led away to which high priest first?
6. What was inscribed above the cross?
7. When Jesus died, for how long was there darkness over the land?
8. What was the name of the man who requested Jesus' body for burial?
9. Who of these was first on the scene after resurrection of Christ?
10. Pilate offered to release one prisoner -
which prisoner did the Jews request to be released?
11. What was the color of the robe placed on Jesus?
12. After Pilate found no guilt in Christ, for what reason
did the Jews say that Jesus should die?
13. With what was Jesus' side pierced?
14. In what was Jesus wrapped before he was buried?
15. Which disciple wanted to see the imprint of the nails before he would believe?
16. Jesus appeared to his disciples after the resurrection beside which sea?
17. Who did Pilate send Jesus to after he had interrogated him?
18. Who carried the cross for Christ?
19. Who rolled away the tomb stone?
20. For how long did Jesus remain after his resurrection before he ascended into heaven?



April Education Schedule:

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.

- **April 4: No Sunday School due to Easter**
- **April 25: Last Sunday School session for 2020-2021 year**
- **April 25: Last Sunday for Children and Worship**
- **No Changes for Youth Group/Wednesday night Bible Class**

College Addresses

Garrett Sayler

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

Jena Van Marel

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

MaKayla Tangeman

9614 University Ave
Unit 202K
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Hunter DeJong

109 Wilder Place
Ames, IA 50014

Peyton Crichton

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

Paige Hurlburt

Brookman-222
317 N. Dakota Street
Vermillion, SD 57069

Kalie DeBoer

815 8th Street
Sibley, IA 51249

Nick and Sara Buysman

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Jaden Abels

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Box 452
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Troy Soat

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Tanner Dykstra

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Lincoln, NE 68508

Alyssa Wassman

Foundation Residence
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Marshall, MN 56258

Alex Mc Dougall

106 Barton Anders
285 Richardson Ct Rm 106
Ames, IA 50013-0023

Jagger Johnson**Grant Brouwer**

DU 2335
651 6th St. NE
Sioux Center, IA 51250

Leah Ackerman

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Sibley, IA 51249

Madeline Sayler

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Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Cody Dykstra

1359 SW Prairie Trail Pkwy
Apt. #307
Ankeny, IA 50023

Carson Van Westen

204 Beach Road Room 321
Maple Friant
Ames, IA 50013-0039

Ryan Van Marel

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

Ashilyn Hulstein

Ben Reifel-132-A2
1351 8th Street
Brookings, SD 57007

Hudson Feldkamp

230 Dakota Trail
Brookings, SD 57007

Lane Tangeman

502 5th Ave
Sibley, Iowa 51249

Dalton Bremer

100 Daum Hall
Room #5407
Iowa City, IA 52242

Mariah Elser

University Suites - 128A
1780 R Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

If your student will have a different address for the 2020-2021 school year please let the office know.

Sportsmen's Devotional

Bible Study Verse

John 4:35

You know the saying, "Four months between planting and harvest." But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest. (NLT)



Thoughts

A drive across the plains of South Dakota reminded me of the upcoming wheat harvest. The fields are especially green and full this year due to abundant rain. The varieties of wheat used for the fall planting varied widely. So the maturity of the fields reflected that variety. Some fields were still green. Others were just beginning to turn that light green that melds into yellow. Yet others were already heading into the golden color that announces the harvest is near.

Action Point

Partner with God in His harvest of people. In the context of the John 4 passage, the disciples of Jesus did not realize the priority of God in reaching people. When Jesus mentioned the harvest, they thought He meant food, as they had just returned from a trip for food.

Jesus lets them know that reaching people is a priority. He speaks of the nourishment He receives as He accomplishes God's priority of reaching needy people.

We need to prioritize people in our schedules. We need to reach out to them in everything we do. We must always prepare to share. We must purchase each chance to sow the seed of the gospel in the hearts of people.

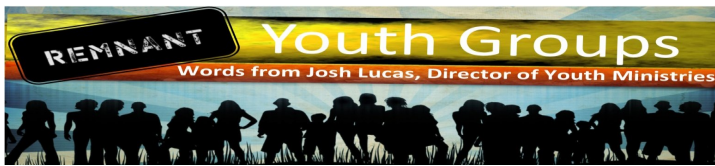
The outdoors is a perfect place to accomplish that. Psalm 19:1-4 tells us that creation literally screams out that there is a Creator. **It is our privilege to introduce others to Him!!!**

Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

Get involved with local chapters and clubs that improve habitat for wildlife. Invest some time, energy, and money in this worthwhile activity. It will generate a benefit of more wildlife in the long run. It will also establish or develop relationships with others who need the Lord.

Trivia Time Answers!!!

- 1. Crown of Thorns** (Matt 27:29) **2. Clothes** (Matt 27:35) **3. 30** (Matt 27:3) **4. Kiss** (Luke 22:47-48) **5. Annas** (John 18:13) **6. King of the Jews** (John 19:19) **7. 3 hours** (Luke 23:44) **8. Joseph** (Matt 27:57-58) **9. Mary Magdalene** (John 20:1) **10. Barabbas** (Matt 27:26) **11. Purple** (John 19:2) **12. He had made himself the Son of God** (John 19:7) **13. Spear** (John 19:34) **14. Linen Clothes** (Mark 15:46) **15. Thomas** (John 20:27) **16. Sea of Tiberias** (John 21:1) **17. Herod** (Luke 23:7) **18. Simon of Cyrene** (Matt 27:32) **19. An angel** (Matt 28:2) **20. 40 days** (Acts 1:3)



Hello First Reformed Church,

Your Devil Crushing Ninja Trainer (Youth Director for short) here to give you an update on what is happening and hopefully to encourage you! There is a lot happening in youth group right now! We are very excited about our plans for summer and our current studies. Currently in Middle School we are going through a study on "Identity." We are following Tim Tebow, a former college and NFL football quarterback, who tells of his story of finding his identity not in the world, but in Christ. This is a study that we are doing in both Wednesday night and Sunday School. This has been a very good study especially since we are showing the students all of the different names, that God and Jesus are given in scripture, yet they all mean the same thing, creator/savior. Which is just like us as humans. We may have all of these identities or names but if we are in Christ, our ultimate identity is found in Christ. For example, before Christ I had many identities, I was an actor, a baseball player, a student, but now that I am in Christ, I may still have those names, but the difference is that Christ is at the beginning of those names. I am a Christian baseball player, husband, father, youth leader, etc. We also have been hearing testimonies from our youth leaders as well. It has been a blessing!

In high school recently we have been speaking about the issue of Atheism and this has led to a study and discussion about how we preach the gospel to non-believers. This has been a very important discussion because there are many times that God puts people into our paths so we can till the garden that God has planted in someone's heart. This last week we used an amazing book that I have gone through and I encourage anyone to read it who has a heart for evangelizing to other people. The book is called, "Hell's Best Kept Secret," written by Ray Comfort. If you could not already tell, I really like Ray Comfort. This book goes through the issues of modern gospel preaching and the back slide of modern Christianity and how we as the church need to take a step back and reevaluate our preaching methods. It was a great book for me, and I hope that the kids took a lot away from the tiny portion that we shared with them. We also gave an example of a conversation starter for gospel preaching. This has been a great blessing for us as we have heard from the other youth leaders as to their experiences and what they have noticed has worked for them.

In regard to summer we have some summer activities planned for both MS and HS. For MS we are going to be going to Kentucky and visit the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum. If you are a parent, please be on the lookout for a letter being sent in the mail that explains all of these details. For HS we are going to be doing our annual Mission trip. This year we are going to be going to Lake Charles, LA to do hurricane rebuild. If you are a high school student, please make sure that you let me know if you would like to attend because spaces are limited! These are some of the highlights that are happening right now in youth group, so if you ever need a hug just remember this big ole teddy bear has got one for you!

Blessings,
Josh Lucas

Dad Jokes with Josh:

Q: You know what they say about cliff hangers?



PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Dean and Amy Van Marel; Ryan | 16. Caleb Wagenaar |
| 2. Jena Van Marel | 17. Pray for our College Students |
| 3. Pray for our College Students | 18. Pray for our Church |
| 4. Pray for our Church | 19. Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar |
| 5. David Van Ruler; Kacee, Kelsey | 20. Colby Wagenaar |
| 6. Harvey and Marcia Van Ruler | 21. Josh Wagenaar |
| 7. Justin and Angela Van Tilburg; Jackson, Cole, Trace | 22. Justin Wagenaar |
| 8. Bryan Verdoorn | 23. Brent and Brenda Wassman; Alyssa, Austin |
| 9. Joel and Kathy Verdoorn | 24. Pray for our College Students |
| 10. Pray for our College Students | 25. Pray for our Church |
| 11. Pray for our Church | 26. AJ and Jenny Weg; Addison, Alivia |
| 12. Larry and Alfreda Verdoorn | 27. Michael Wielenga; Haiden, Berkley |
| 13. Roger Verdoorn | 28. Lawrence and Ruth Ann Wiersma |
| 14. Jim and Jena Ver Steeg; Aiden, Logan | 29. Ryan Wiersma |
| 15. Faye Vos | 30. Kody and Rachel Wills; Kenzie, Jada, Brody |

College Students:

Dalten Bremer
Faye Carda
Jennifer Cuadros
Clint Henrichs
Ashilyn Hulstein
Natalie Klaassen

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
Nick Buysman
Hunter DeJong
Hunter Rockman
Ryan Van Marel
Mariah Elser

Peyton Crichton
Andrea Meyer
Garrett Sayler
Makayla Tangeman

Jena Van Marel
Troy Soat

Hannah Lucas

REFORMED THEOLOGY IS COVENANTAL

Have you ever struggled to understand how the Bible all ties together? If we are honest we have all wondered why we have Leviticus and Deuteronomy in the Bible. I think that it all stems from the inadequate teaching and preaching that we have in the modern church—including our own. If we are to understand God's plan of redemption as revealed in the Bible correctly we need to see it all in light of the Covenants He made with his people.

As a young person you may have learned that covenants are 'agreements between two or more persons. And the Covenants in the Bible are the same. What is different is who the **parties** or persons are in the Biblical covenants. Covenants also have **stipulations** (things the parties are required to do); **blessings/cursing's** (what will happen if we obey God or disobey God); and **signs** (something pointing to the work of God in salvation). Covenants made with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and David all have these elements.

Covenant theology is the organizing principle that leads us through the 66 books of the Bible into a living relationship with God himself. In many ways the covenants can be best summed up through the repeating statement, "I will be your God and you will be my people" (Gen. 17:6,8; Ex. 6:;7; 20:2; 29:45; Jer. 32:38; Ezek. 11:20; 34:30; 36:28; 2 Co. 6:17, 18; Rev. 21:3)

- **Covenant of Redemption**—arrangement between the Father and the Son in which the Son promises to act in the place of sinners, becoming a security for His people, obeying and suffering on their behalf. (Ps. 2:7,9; 89:3; 2 Sam. 7:11, 16; Zech. 6:13, John 5:30, 6:38)
- **Covenant of Works, or Covenant of Life**—Adam is the federal (representative) head of humanity, meaning that his obedience or disobedience is reckoned as humanities. So when Adam fell, his guilt was imputed to his posterity, including those who have never sinned (e.g. infants).
- **Covenant of Grace**—God's underserved favor toward the believer, viewed in God's covenant with Abraham and his seed (Gen. 15:18; 17:2, 4, 7, 9, 13, 19,21). Other covenants of the OT are subsumed under this covenant.

Can you hear all of redemptive history in the words of Jesus at the last supper?

And when He had taken *some* bread *and* given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body, which is being given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." And in the same way *He took* the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup, which is poured out for you, is the **new covenant** in My blood. *Luke 22:19-20*

There isn't enough room here to discuss this fully, and it is hard to distill this subject down when it is the whole counsel of God! Other systems of Biblical interpretation are inadequate (for example Dispensationalism). Reformed Theology see all of history in terms of Creation –Fall-Redemption and Restoration!



CREATION—FALL—REDEMPTION—RESTORATION

Our world is complicated. If you are listening to the very loud voices in our culture then you may feel threatened and confused. We may be tempted to become *theological turtles*, pulling our heads inside our shells when confronted with someone who doesn't like what we believe. But God wants us to be out there speaking truth and calling people to faith and repentance.

Every worldview tries to answer one or more of the following questions, and we need to make sure that we know what the Bible says about these questions. Take heart, God is not defeated and neither are we.

1. **Where did we come from?** This is the question of **CREATION**.

The general perception in the modern world is that the world simply 'exploded' into being out of nothing. This is an illogical statement because *nothing comes from nothing*. We know that God created everything, that he created man in his own image, and that we all have purpose and meaning only through him.

2. **What has gone wrong with the world?** This is the question of the **FALL**.

We could spend much time on this question because so many have tried to answer this question. The Bible says that *we are all sinful and that the entire creation has been tainted by Adam's sin*. Here are three other perspectives you may hear being suggested to us every day.

- Sigmund Freud said there isn't sin, only the affects of parents and others on the individual.
- Karl Marx said that there is only conflict between those with power/money and those who do not have it.
- Fredrick Nietzsche said there was no sin.

3. **Can anything be done to fix the world?** This is the question of **REDEMPTION**

The three we looked at above also have answers to this question. Can you see how they tried to solve the problems of the world from their ideas about sin?

- Sigmund Freud said everyone needs *therapy*. It's not their fault.
- Karl Marx said that we need to *redistribute wealth and power*, through the government or revolution.
- Fredrick Nietzsche was complicated but his essential answer was those with power could exert their moral will over the lives of the weak—Hitler loved his ideas.

4. **What happens when we die?** This is the question of **RESTORATION**

Freud, Marx and Nietzsche all believed there was nothing after death, this life is all that there is. But God has another plan—a plan to restore all of creation to its original state of perfection. We know that when those who die in Christ will live with him in heaven, but we also know there is also going to be a new heaven and a new earth where the state of Eden is restored! (Rev. 22-24)

BE A
Prayer
WARRIOR
Luke 21:36

PRAYER JOURNAL



Celebrations

~~*Birthday's*~~

- 1 Dahson De Jong
- 2 Kim Van Der Sloom
Kailey Bruxvoort
Trace Van Tilburg
- 3 Angela De Boer
Gary De Vries
- 4 Kyler Maxwell
Ger Van Diepen
Berkley Wielenga
- 5 Wilma Leusink
- 8 Pam Vande Hoef
Mary Hustoft
Randy Bremer
- 9 Lyle Peelen
Burdell Henrichs
- 10 Marilyn De Boer
John Juffer
Gracia Altoff
- 11 Heather Tangeman
- 12 Ellen Schram
- 13 Steve Mulder
- 14 Dave Lamfers

- Bill Hartzell
- 15 Sylvia Bosma
- 16 Martha Krikke
Troy Block
- 17 Margaret Calsbeek
LaDonn Hartzell
Andrew Zylstra
- 18 Sharalyn Tjaden
- 19 Grace Hoekstra
- 21 Michaela Block
- 22 Twila Heemstra

- 23 LeRoy De Boer
- 24 Randy Vande Berg
Apiyo Harberts
Uchan Harberts
- 26 Melissa Langstraat
Grant Brouwer
- 27 Dennis Jurgens
- 28 Janice Heikes
Madeline Sayler
- 30 Paige Hurlburt

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

~~*Anniversaries*~~

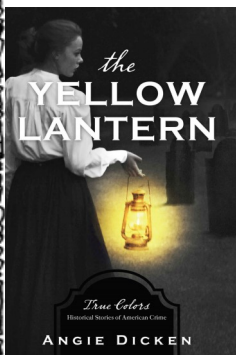
- | | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| 6 Chris and Teresa Hurlburt | 25 years |
| 7 Dave & Lesa Stofferan | 43 years |
| 19 John & Jan Juffer | 53 years |
| 22 Josh & Hannah Lucas | 4 years |
| 25 Brian & Chelsey Alexander | 9 years |
| 27 Roger & Carol Iedema | 48 years |
| 28 Dean & Amy Van Marel | 31 years |



If you would like to be included in our Birthday and Anniversary Calendar and do not see your name, please contact the office (sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com or 754-2783) and let us know your dates! We would love to recognize YOU on your special day! Thanks

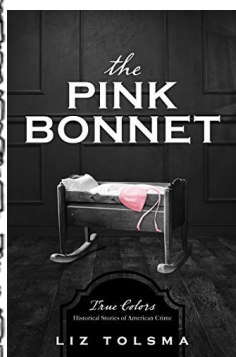
From the library--

You may recall that I have told about the 'True Colors' books in previous NEWS LETTERS. The series is a number of books written by different authors all based on 'Historical Stories of American Crime.' This month two new True Colors books have been added to our library: THE YELLOW LANTERN and THE PINK BONNET.



Hopefully, I can peak your interest by stating THE YELLOW LANTERN written by Angie Dicken is a weird book and I was wondering if it really was based on true events—it is!! With the "True Colors" books I have found it helpful to go to the back of the book (No, not to read the ending!!) but where the author gives a more complete picture of the crime involved. Here is the synopsis: "In 1824, Josephine Clayton is considered dead by everyone in her Massachusetts village—especially the doctor she has assisted for several months. Yet, she is still very much alive. After the doctor's illegal dealing with his body snatcher to obtain her body, Josephine awakens, positioned as the next corpse for his research. To cover up his crime, the doctor tries

to kill her, but Josephine begs to be spared. They strike a deal—Josephine will leave her village and work at a distant cotton mill. All the while, she's awaits her true mission—posing as a mourner to help the body snatcher procure her replacement. At the mill, though, Josephine is praised for her medical remedies among the other female workers, gaining attention from the handsome factory manager, Braham Taylor. Yet, when Braham's own loved one becomes the prey for the next grave robbing, Josie must make a choice that could put her dark past behind her or steal away the promise of any future at all."



I know that THE PINK BONNET by Liz Tolsma is for real—I have seen TV documentaries on Georgia Tann. "Widowed in Memphis during 1933, Cecile Dowd is struggling to provide for her three-year-old daughter, Millie. Cecile unwittingly trusts a neighbor who puts little Millie into the clutches of Georgia Tann, corrupt Memphis Tennessee Children's Home Society director suspected of the disappearance of hundreds of children. With the help of a sympathetic lawyer, their search for Millie uncovers a deep level of corruption that threatens their very lives. How far will a mother go to find out what happened to her child?"

Be sure to visit the library soon.

Jeannette Juffer



Easter Story

Word Search

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | C | B | M | N | E | J | E | S | U | S | C | H | R | I | S | T |
| K | A | A | P | O | D | V | G | V | A | R | E | J | O | I | C | E |
| J | R | V | M | S | P | R | A | Y | E | R | W | C | B | V | F | S |
| Y | N | O | I | X | I | F | I | C | U | R | C | T | R | M | L | E |
| L | A | P | C | O | I | E | B | Q | O | X | B | B | N | O | O | L |
| I | R | E | S | U | R | R | E | C | T | I | O | N | R | E | S | T |
| T | R | E | P | P | U | S | T | S | A | L | Y | E | M | B | L | S |
| S | H | L | U | P | V | Y | T | K | V | F | D | M | T | E | K | O |
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APOSTLES
 BETRAYAL
 CAVE
 CHURCH
 CROSS
 CROWN
 CRUCIFIXION
 DISCIPLES
 FAITH
 GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST
 JUDAS
 LAMB
 LAST SUPPER
 LENT
 MARY
 MIRACLE
 PASSOVER
 PENANCE
 PENTECOST

PRAYER
 REDEMPTION
 REJOICE
 RESURRECTION
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 SAVIOR
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Being the



Rowland and Jane Van Es

The goal of St. Paul's University is to train servant leaders for various fields of service. Our role is to teach classes in the Faculty of Social Science (Jane) and the Faculty of Theology (Rowland). We also mentor students and develop relationships with them by living and working on campus.

Blessings of 2020: Just before the lockdown for the COVID-19 Pandemic, Rowland was able to present a paper on African Christology to the African Society of Evangelical Theology and published it in their Journal.

Students were also still able to study and train virtually all three semesters and were able to do their field practicums while following COVID-19 guidelines. Rowland presented a report to Saint Paul's University on Pastoral Care during a Pandemic, using some of the stories of the students.

In one local church, due to a decline in cash offerings, they held a harvest festival with in-kind offerings



to raise money not only for their budget but so they could offer help to the poor. In another local church, when schools were closed, they decided to give sanitary pads to middle school girls who were used to getting them free from school, to meet this new pandemic need.

Challenges of 2020 The COVID-19 pandemic was a major challenge from March when schools were closed through December. Classes for the January semester were moved online and students were able to finish and do their exams virtually. The May and September semesters were then both done 100% virtually.

While the pandemic reduced physical access to students and local congregations, we were still able to minister virtually for an Easter service and at least once a month for the rest of the year. St Paul's University was still able to hold graduation, albeit virtually, for students. A few faculty and staff (including Jane) we selected to participate in the recorded ceremony.



Hopes for 2021: In 2021, we plan to teach the Jan-April Semester and then come to the U.S. for home service, since we have not done that since 2018. Our goal is to connect with as many of our supporting churches as possible to share the good news about what God continues to do at St Paul's and in Kenya.



How We Can Pray: We need prayers for safety this year as some students have returned to campus to take classes in person even as other classes (all of ours included) continue to be done virtually. We are trying to keep as safe as possible by following guidelines about masking and distancing. Pray that Kenya continues to have relatively few cases and deaths and maintains a low positivity rate and that the vaccine will be available and distributed freely and fairly to the most in need of protection.

Additional Needs: We usually try to give either an African Bible or African Bible Commentary to graduating students of the Reformed Church in East Africa. The RCA also supports scholarships for needy students at St Paul's University studying in any one of the three faculties. Many depend on such assistance to afford a University education. In Kenya, families have to pay for high school, too, so money has to go to all their children, and often there is just not enough to cover them all. Please consider supporting the St. Paul's Scholarship Fund: www.rca.org/vanes

Thank you: Knowing that we are supported by prayers and regular financial support allows us to concentrate on our mission and work of teaching here. It frees us from worrying about ourselves so we can think more about the staff and students here and their needs.

Serving together,

Rowland and Jane



MODERN WESTMINSTER CATECHISM

CREATION

Q9. What is creation?

Creation is God's making everything out of nothing by His powerful word in six days - and all very good.

Q10. How did God create man?

God created man, male and female, in His own image and in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, to rule over the other creatures.

FALL

Q12. What did God's providence specifically do for man whom He created?

After the creation God made a covenant with man to give him life, if he perfectly obeyed; God told him not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil or he would die.

Q13. Did our first parents remain as they were created?

Left to the freedom of their own wills, our first parents sinned against God and fell from their original condition.

Q14. What is sin?

Sin is disobeying or not conforming to God's law in any way.

Now counts because we are creatures who have an origin and a destiny which is rooted and grounded in God.

—R.C. SPROUL

Q15. By what sin did our first parents fall from their original condition?

Our first parents' sin was eating the forbidden fruit.

Q16. Did all mankind fall in Adam's first disobedience?

Since the covenant was made not only for Adam but also for his natural descendants, all mankind sinned in him and fell with him in his first disobedience.

Q17. What happened to man in the fall?

Man fell into a condition of sin and misery.

Q19. What is the misery of man's fallen condition?

By their fall all mankind lost fellowship with God and brought His anger and curse on themselves. They are therefore subject to all the miseries of this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever.

REDEMPTION

Q84. What does every sin deserve?

Every sin deserves God's anger and curse, both in this life and in the life to come.

Q85. What does God require from us to escape His anger and curse, which we deserve for our sin?

To escape God's anger and curse, which we deserve for our sin, God requires from us faith in Jesus Christ and repentance unto life along with diligent involvement in all the external ways Christ uses to bring us the benefits of redemption.

Q87. What is repentance unto life?

Repentance unto life is a saving grace, by which a sinner, being truly aware of his sinfulness, understands the mercy of God in Christ, grieves for and hates his sins, and turns from them to God, fully intending and striving for a new obedience.

Consistory Meeting Highlights

March 16, 2021

- MMSA to approve names to be on the Pastoral Search Team.
- MMSA to do a Congregational Survey for the team.
- MMSA to run a bulletin announcement to see if there is interest in a new member class
- MMSA to allow Peg Van Kley to host a Compassion Sunday at FRC on April 25, 2021
- MMSA to remove tape on the pews except for 2nd and 4th rows up front on main floor. Fellowship hall will be open with no coffee or goodies at Fellowship time, Community activities, such as soup and pie suppers will be considered on a case by case basis. Return to church phases are eliminated. Continue current cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.
- MMSA use of the church Sanctuary on Good Friday evening for the showing of the movie "Passion of the Christ" beginning at 6:30 pm.
- Sunrise Service will be lead by the Remnant Youth at 7:30am
- MMSA for the Baptism of Brysen Paul Alexander, son of Brian and Chelsey Alexander on April 11, 2021 at the 9:00 Cornerstone Service.
- MMSA to have the regular service at 9:00 am Easter Sunday with no breakfast or brunch.

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SPRINGTIME

Unscramble each of the words on the right side of this page, then copy the letters from the numbered boxes to the boxes below to find the hidden phrase.



POPULAR SPRINGTIME PHRASE

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Just For Fun...



The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



SERMON SURVIVAL TIP: If during the sermon, you drift off to a peaceful slumber.. and your wife gently nudges you, pretend you were praying, and just quietly say.. "AMEN".



Sunday, June 6-Thursday, June 10