

The Newsletter August 2020 Glorify God in all we do, Grow with Him daily & Go with Him to share His love.

<u>August at a Glance</u>

10 Prayers for Schools

Pray for ...

- 1. The salvation of all teachers and students who are unbelievers.
- 2. Students to refrain from alcohol, drugs and violence.
- 3. Protection from hate, envy, jealousy, greed and selfishness.
- 4. Teachers to obey God's leadership as they teach.
- 5. Safety to all school bus drivers and their riders.
- 6. Students to be able to withstand peer-pressure.
- 7. Parents to experience the love of Jesus Christ.
- 8. Students to have respect for all in authority over them.
- Peace and joy in the homes of all students and teachers.
- 10. Protection on the playgrounds and during extra-Curricular activities.

antandiet.org

	Father Son Fishing Trip
	has been cancelled
2:	4-6pm VBS Kit Pickup by
	east carport door
4:	OCMA Backpack distribution
	in the Fireside Room
3-15:	Pastor Luke will be on Vacation
17:	Faith Bible Study will not meet

- Patience Bible Study will not meet
- 23: Church in Central Park with communion
- 31: Consistory Meeting

*Sunday Mornings:

9:00 am Cornerstone Service Sunday School is on break until Fall 11:00 am <u>Open Door Service</u>

- *Monday Evenings: Women's Bible Study is on Summer break
- *Tuesday mornings: Chickadee Quillers are on break
- *Wednesday Evening Bible Bible Classes are on break until Fall
- *Wednesday Night Youth Group 6:30-8 High School Remnant meets in Central Park
- *Thursday Night Youth Group 6:30-8 Middle School Remnant meets in Central Park

CONTACT INFORMATION: 712-754-2783



sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com View our Website at: sibleyfrc.org



As we continue to journey through these unchartered waters I am reminded that God will get us to our final destination. I think for all of us, we are anxious, desiring to get back to normal, and enjoy things the way we use to. School is just around the corner and there are a lot of questions. It seems like right now one of two phrases is; "What if....." and "How are we....".

We do the best we can and try to make wise decisions each step of the way. Some might become impatient while others are content with the moment. In the

church we are also moving through unchartered waters. We desire to keep you safe and healthy, yet long to get back to worship and church as normal. As we enter the fall we will continue to do all we can to make wise decisions on how to move forward.

Let me update you on some of the things happening. We now have our new video system installed. We will continue to tweak the bugs we are encountering with this change but are confident we will eventually get there. Anyone watching online should have a clearer image, see our scripture and song lyrics better and enjoy good sound. Within the church you will not notice much difference with the exception of maybe just a little bit clear image on the wall up front. Thanks for the many people who worked with this. We have had our challenges but hope this new addition to ministry will make a big difference to all those watching online.

On Sunday, August 23 at 10 am, we will have one church service at Central Park in Sibley. Bring your lawn chair as we will locate ourselves where we would normally have the "Movie in the Park" event. This would be the east side of the shelter. We will also be having our first communion together as a church body since this all started. The worship team is excited about this opportunity and you will have plenty of space to social distance from each other.

The Elders will be handing out pre-packaged communion elements. The juice is in a sealed cup with foil and a wafer is on top of the cup also sealed. You will also be handed a song sheet to sing along with. For those who cannot make the day we will still have a live service broadcasted through Facebook. In case of rain, we will postpone the service till the following week and have our services as we normally would in church. Stayed tuned if that should happen.

Finally, we will be hosting an "at home DVBS" this year. Take home packets will be available on Sunday, August 2 from 4-6pm. You will need to pull up through the carport by the church offices. Someone will come to your car, find out your ages and then get you a packet designed for their particular age. Everything you need for the week should be in that packet. It will also include a t-shirt for your child. Come as a family, we have a special gift to give you.

We will need you to take about an hour each day and do DVBS together as a family. You will be able to watch the Bible lesson on YouTube and also included are questions for discussion time as well as crafts, games and snacks for each day. Like many things, we are trying to make the best of the situation we are in.

We are still determining what we will be doing for our fall programs and at the end of August we will inform all of what will be happening. Until then, we are remaining in Phase 1a and 2b. Please pray for the consistory who will be meeting on August 31 to make some of these important decisions for the fall.

Well, we have a lot that is happening. I am reminded that God uses any situation as an opportunity to do ministry and share the gospel. Keep that at the forefront of what's going on. Hang in there, God is right there by your side!

Blessings and love, Pastor Luke

There will not be Coffee with the Pastor this month. Let's try again in September!



Stewardship & Giving

Special offering for August: Village Northwest

Offering Summary through July 26:

- General Fund: \$189,638.95; Budget: \$291,112; 65% of budget
- Benevolent Fund: \$16,703.67 Budget: \$73,913; 22% of budget
- Building Fund offerings to date: \$838



A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom as the children drew pictures. The teacher would occasionally walk around and see each child's artwork. As she approached one little girl who was working especially hard, she asked what the drawing was.

The little girl told her: "I'm drawing God!"

"But sweety," the teacher replied, "no one actually knows what God looks like."

Automatically, the little girl continued drawing and said: "well, they certainly will in a minute!"

Faith In Action for

August:

<u>Upper Des Moines</u> <u>Food Pantry</u>

Let's help fill up the pantry! Any nonperishable food is welcome. Thank

you for sharing!



Trivia Time!!!

- How many loaves of bread did Jesus use in feeding the 4000?
- 2. Abraham left what country?
- 3. When Philip met the Ethiopian eunuch, he was reading from what book in the Old Testament?
- 4. Paul preached on Mars' Hill. In what city is Mars' Hill located?

- 5. Into how many parts did the soldiers divide Jesus' Garments?
- 6. What was the name of Jacob's firstborn child?
- 7. When Jacob followed Esau out of his mother's womb, he was holding onto what?

Cornerstone Service Greeters, 9 am

No Greeters at this time

9:00 am Nursery

No Nursery at this time

Library Volunteers

No Library at this time

Sunday School Nursery

Sunday School is on Break until Fall

Prayer With the Elders following the service

No Schedule at this time

S

11:00 am Nursery

No Nursery at this time

After Church Greeters



No Greeters at this time

Willing Hans Group





Children and Worship Leaders/Helpers

Children and Worship is on Break until Fall

Willing Hands Group #2 will be responsible for

services during the month.

Co-chairpersons are:

- Luella/Harold Eggink
- Darcy/Frank Martinez

Fellowship Coffee Servers

No Schedule at this time

ommunion will be

served!





Don't forget to bring your Bible and Ch_{air}

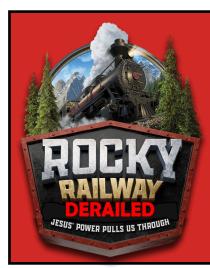
We hope you are remembering your Secret Sister in your prayers as well as with acts of kindness.

In this time of uncertainty a word of encouragement will mean a lot.

10:00 am Sunday, August 23rd

WORSHIP IN THE PARK

SIBLEY CENTRAL PARK



The Train Has Derailed!!! Bummer! Instead, we are going to host VBS in your home

August 3-7.

Curbside pickup of your Train Derailment Packets will be on Sunday, August 2 between 4-6pm.

We have a great surprise if you pick yours up between those times!!

If you are interested and didn't sign up for VBS, please let the church office know what grade level and shirt size and we will have a packet for you. If you have any questions contact the church office, Pastor Luke or Josh.

> Date _____ Signature

Meeting Minutes

Consistory Meeting Highlights

- No Meeting in July
- The Administrative Team met two times in the month of July to discuss our return to

church options and guidelines. Recommendation to stay in Phase 1A and 2B for now.

Ministry Teams continue to meet and make future plans

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!





Mothers Together is on break for Summer. We hope to begin meeting once again this fall! Have a great summer everyone!



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 encourage you! I am so deeply excited to announce that we are coming back to youth group! We are going to be meeting starting on July 15 and 16! We will be meeting for the next few weeks of summer until school starts again. We are meeting on Wednesday and Thursday nights. Wednesday nights, from 6:30-8:00pm, are for High School students. Thursday nights, 6:30-8:00pm, are for Junior High students. This will be a great time for us to be back together! We are practicing social distancing and making sure that we follow the guidelines set by our church leadership. Praise God for allowing this moment to happen.

Joanna started doing something new that she really was not doing before! She is starting to use sign language, be more vocal, and she is starting to say words. She has learned how to say: more, please, and thank you. She also nods or shakes her head when we ask her questions, so I don't know if that counts as sign language or not. She is beginning to find her voice and she is really making Hannah and I laugh when she gets really excited. She is starting to say clear as day: mom, dad, yeah, no, and she even is starting to say God. It is truly a blessing to see her grow every single day and learn something new. I am reminded of our relationship with Jesus. Every day we are learning something new, we are being tested, and we are growing each and every day. I know there are certain days that feel bad, but just remember there is nothing that happens in your life that God is not going to use to grow you in some way.

As I stated before youth group is starting back up for summer activities and we are really looking forward to it! If you ever have any questions about anything regarding youth group please feel free to reach out to me to get more details! Remember, if you ever need a (distanced) hug this big ole teddy bear has got one for you!

Blessings,

Josh Lucas

Dad Jokes with Josh: Q: Where can you find an ocean with no water? A: On a map!



PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Assisted Living

Ethel Jurgens Geneva Wissink Gaylord Kruger

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

DDAVED IOUDNAL

PRAYER JOURNAL				



PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

- 1. Pray for our College Students
- 2. Pray for our Church
- 3. Brian and Chelsey Alexander; Kimberlie, Riley
- 4. Brian and Elia Althoff; Will, Gracia
- 5. Bobby and Dee Baker
- 6. John and Sharon Bartels
- 7. Gretchen Bartelson
- 8. Pray for our College Students
- 9. Pray for our Church
- 10. Carl Berkenpas
- 11. Mike and Andrea Block; Michaela, Michael
- 12. Troy and Meggan Block; Halle, Brady, Kolby
- 13. Travis and Jill Boeke; Emma
- 14. Kody and Jurnea Bos
- 15. Pray for our College Students
- 16. Pray for our Church

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

- 17. Jerry and Sylvia Bosma
- 18. Tammy Breitweiser; Andrea Leusink
- 19. Daphne Bremer; Dalten, Tayler
- 20. Randy Bremer
- 21. Marlys Brink
- 22. Pray for our College Students
- 23. Pray for our Church
- 24. Jerrad and Tracee Brouwer; Grant, Carter, Madison
- 25. Brayden Bruxvoort
- 26. Jamie and Jennifer Bruxvoort; Logan, Ella
- 27. Kailey Bruxvoort
- 28. Jane Buysman
- 29. Pray for our College Students
- 30. Pray for our Church
- 31. Nathan and Angie Buysman; Lydia

Paige Hurlburt Kaitlyn Bechler Kalie De Boer Keyana Gust Jaden Abels Nick Buysman Hunter DeJong Hunter Rockman Ryan Van Marel Mariah Elser

- Megan Travaille Peyton Crichton Andrea Meyer Garrett Sayler Makayla Tangeman
- Sarah Hoppe Jena Van Marel Troy Soat

Hannah Lucas

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, meets the third Monday of most months. Please watch your bulletins or listen to the church announcements for details for the month of August.



Patience Bible Study, meets the third Monday of most months. Please watch your bulletins or listen to the church announcements for details for the month of August.

The Monday Night Ladies Bible Study is on break until Fall.

y	h	m	s	k	0	0	b	s	0	t	f
c	r	a	y	o	n	s	i	у	f	e	k
P	u	d	r	a	0	ь	k	с	a	ι	ь
ι	m	z	r	с	t	w	r	ι	t	e	f
a	t	0	j	a	w	e	c	m	t	9	P
y	f	ь	0	u	0	z	a	0	ι	e	e
9	k	r	ι	r	e	ь	y	c	n	ι	k
r	s	f	i	ι	s	s	e	с	h	x	a
0	e	w	b	e	ь	s	i	t	р	e	k
u	d	a	۵	a	n	ι	a	d	i	c	r
n	t	r	e	a	d	d	r	ι	y	h	9
d	t	n	i	a	р	k	s	x	с	r	

blackboard	paint
desk	table
playground	write
books	crayons
friends	pencil
read	teacher
whiteboard	
classroom	



1 Ellie Loerts

- 3 Vanessa Odens
- 4 Garrett Sayler
- 5 Barbara Van Hattem
- 6 Dale Herrboldt
- 7 Cory Dykstra Kade Julius Dawson Beyer Aidan Beyer
- 8 Chris Wynia Landon Odens
- 9 Natalie Klaassen
- 10 Barb Van Diepen Regan Crichton Anita Ernst Rachel Waits
- 11 Leanne Van Kley
- 13 Tayler Bremer
- 15 Megan Loerts
- 16 Deb Kosters Dawson Kreykes
- 17 Alyssa Wassman Cody Dykstra Andrea Block
- 18 Peyton Crichton
- 19 Alexis Gaalswyk Maureen Heilman
- 20 Charlie Kuhl Damon Tangeman

- 21 Jessa Wolter
- 22 Paul Feldkamp Jena Van Marel Lindy Tracy
- 23 Kyle Soat
- 24 Sharon Bartels Amy Elser
- 25 Wilma Hatting Dan Janssen Lars Ackerman
- 26 John Bartels Brenda Kuhl Brad Loerts
- 27 Madison Brouwer
- 28 Larry Riebeling
- 29 David Van Ruler
- 30 Renae Groen Lisa Heibult Linda Mehls
- 31 Tessa Feldkamp Grace Sayler Jackson Van Der Sloot

~~Anníversaríes~~

Celebrations

2	Jim & Pauline Van Engen	46 years
4	Merlin & Karen Doorenbos Chad & Megan Travaille	30 years 2 years
6	Ger and Barb Van Diepen Ken and Wilma Loerts	54 years 44 years
7	Charlie and Brenda Kuhl John and Kim Mc Dougall	39 years 21 years
10	Henry and Barb Fisher	47 years
11	Eugene and Renae Groen	48 years
13	Steve and Lynn Mulder Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar Michael and Chelsea Hulstein	32 years 32 years 9 years
15	Mike and Mary Hustoft	57 years
18	Dave & Donna Kleinwolterink	44 years
21	Dan and Annette Janssen Cavell and Emily Van Westen	44 years 21 years
22	Arnie & Diane Langstraat	51 years
23	Scott and Jamie Hulstein Brent and Brenda Wassman	23 years 23 years
24	John and Lois Van Diepen Randy and Kelli Vande Berg	58 years 30 years
28	Leroy & Glenda De Boer	39 years
30	Steve & Leanne Van Kley Brian and Megan Loerts	46 years 12 years

Rowland Jr. & Jane Van Es



Dear Friends,

Greetings again from St Paul's University in Limuru, Kenya. A lot has changed since we wrote to you at the beginning of the lockdown here, while some things remain the same. First the good news: we were able to finish the January-April semester by offering classes online and giving open book final exams. We were also able to get our youngest daughter back to Michigan to be reunited with her sister in Holland.

We are grateful to have a safe and comfortable home on campus where we can selfisolate. As we write this, we are sitting outside enjoying our little backyard. The only

drawback is that some things on campus continue "as usual" and that includes the construction of a new building for the faculty of Theology right next to our house. They work from early morning until dark six days a week. This gives us a lot of noise which of course we can't get away from

St Paul's was also able to start the May-August semester and two-thirds of the students signed up for those classes. Amazingly 90% of these students are only using their mobile smartphones to do all their classwork since they don't have access to a computer. Both of us are teaching several classes via Google meet (often in the evenings). Jane is teaching Intro to Psychology, Health Psychology, and Developmental Psychology. She enjoys having students from all four campuses, not just from the main campus where she usually teaches.

Rowland is now teaching Homiletics (Preaching) and Pastoral Care, both of which are a bit tricky to do virtually, but he is finding some creative ways to do it. He is also coordinating the senior students who are still doing their internships this semester even though constrained by the lockdown and restrictions on all public gatherings. He has also been writing and got a couple of articles published this semester.

Kenya, like a lot of countries, is opening back up this month. COVID-19 cases are still very low compared to the USA. So far, less than 10,000 people have tested positive and under 200 have died. But the number of confirmed cases has been going up from less than 50 a day to over 300 new cases a day. A big concern is that there are less than 450 ventilators and ICU beds here for a population of over 50 million people. Some local counties have fewer than 10 ventilators and ICU beds available.

Unlike some other countries, Kenya has decided not to re-open primary or secondary schools until January 2021. The latest word is that colleges and universities may re-open in September but only for some students and under strict health guidelines. It will be a challenge to keep staff and students safe then. Churches are re-opening next week, but only for 100 people at a time and no one under 13 or over 58 will be allowed. Like many of you, we have been worshipping virtually via Zoom but we do miss singing on Sunday.

As we continue to pray for each other, here are some things you can be praying for: • Pray for Jane and Rowland and their students as they continue to adapt to teaching and learning virtually. • Pray that as churches and businesses re-open they will do so safely and without a sudden spike in new cases as has been the case elsewhere that re-opened too soon and/or with too little distancing. Masks are required here, but not everybody wears them properly or consistently enough to prevent spread. from Rowland and Jane Van Es in Kenya July 2020 Jane and Rowland Van Es's ministry At St. Paul's University, an ecumenical school that has trained people for ministry since 1903, Rowland teaches Old Testament introduction and interpretation and business ethics, and Jane teaches psychology and sociology to bachelor of divinity students and a master's level course in caring for people with HIV/AIDS. Learn more at www.rca.org/vanes. • Pray that Kenya continues to have a relatively flat curve and will not have a spike in cases that would easily overwhelm the number of intensive care units and ventilators available in the country. Pray that the frontline health workers stay safe. Pray for the families of those that have already died from COVID-19. • Pray that whenever colleges and universities re-open they will also follow all the recommended health guidelines. It is uncertain how students can be housed and fed safely on campus without contaminating each other and the staff that works and live here.

Sportsmen's Devotional

Bible Study Verses

II Corinthians 3:18

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, Who is the Spirit. (NIV)



Thoughts

Have you ever watched the same deer or elk for a few years? Each year, he takes on more and more of the likeness of his father, the old buck or bull.

The same is true with our kids. Has anybody looked at you and your children and stated that it's easy to see that they're your son or daughter? How do they know? Because the kids look and act like you!

If someone tells my son, "You're just like your father," I hope my son takes it as a compliment, stands a little taller and says, "Thanks." Likewise, I hope the people around me will look at me and say, "You're a lot like your Father (God)." If they do, it means that God has been at work in my life doing His transformation thing--making me more like Him, a reflection of Himself. I can't do it on my own; it has to come from His Spirit working within me. He has to do the work. I simply have to let Him.

Action Point

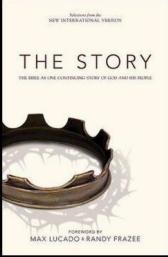
If you look in a mirror, do you like what you see? If not, you can change your hairstyle, maybe some facial features, or maybe the style of your clothes. If you look in the mirror of God's Word, do you like what you see? If not, ask God to change you to be more like Him. He'll do it if you ask.

Sportsmens Tip of the Day

When you're getting camouflaged up for a hunt, don't forget the gloves and facemask. Have someone take a photo of you in the brush in camouflage without them; then you'll want to add them to the list to finish the job of "disappearing" into the woods.

Trivia Time Answers!!!

1. Seven (Matt. 15:36-38) 2.Ur of the Chaldess (Genesis 11:31) 3. Isaiah (Acts 8:27-30) 4. Athens (Acts 17:15,22) 5. Four parts (John 19:23) 6. Reuben (Genesis 35:23) 7. Esau's heel (Genesis 25:23-26)



The Story—Resumed!

August brings thoughts of going back to school and we are going back to our learning adventure in "The Story". We are going to borrow a strategy from our teachers and do what they do at the start of every fall term – they REVIEW!

Do you remember in January when we began our study with Genesis? We read through the story of Creation, Fall, and God's first announcement of His plan for Redemption. Key to all reformed theology is the idea of reading all of scripture in light of the three key elements: **Creation, Fall and Redemption**. (Genesis 1-11)

God's plan of redemption included calling a people to serve him, and so we entered into the life of Abraham, his son Isaac, and his son Jacob. Abraham "believed God" and moved his extended family to the land he was promised. The prospered and grew, but with Jacob's 12 sons there were problems. Joseph's 11 brothers sold him into slavery in Egypt (Genesis Genesis 37—50). What they intended for evil God meant for good and when famine occurred the entire tribe moved to Egypt where it grew into a nation.

Under the leadership of Moses the nation moved back towards the land promised to Abraham...it just took 40 years of wandering in the wilderness because of Israel's rebellion against the law of God. *Every time the nation was NOT FAITHFUL to God, they suffered for their unrighteousness.* (Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy).

The time from Abraham (2166-1991 b.c.) through the time of Moses (1,526-1406 b.c.) is known as the time of the **Patriarchs** because the nation was led by a father-figure leader.

When Moses died his brother Aaron led the nation into the promised land which was divided into areas assigned to each of the 12 tribes (descendants of the 12 sons of Jacob). This next era in the history of Israel is known as the time of the **Judges** (1406-1050 b.c.). We quickly went through this era and it is one you may want to study further! (Joshua and Judges)

Now we are going to learn as Israel transitions from the time of the Judges into the time of the **Kings and Prophets** (1050-432 b.c.). Our transition study starts with Ruth and Boaz, who is a type of the kinsman-redeemer. Their lives point to our final kinsman-redeemer, Jesus Christ. We are still on the overarching Creation/Fall/Redemption—but we are moving into the establishment of the kingdom. Before we start our sermon series on August 30, read the book of Ruth focusing on 4:1-12.

Can you recite all 66 books of the Bible in order? The Old Testament has 39 books and the new Testament has 27. This is the time to make sure that you can—it will help us as we continue through *The Story*.

One thing to keep in mind is that the books are arranged by type as well as by history. Learn them by groups and you will be able to find any book that you want with ease. Let's see how much we can do in the next 8 weeks!

Pentateuch 5 books	Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	5 Major Prophets	Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel	-
History 12 books	Joshua Judges Ruth I & II Samuel I & II Kings I & II Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther	12 Minor Prophets	Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah	Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi
Poetry and Wisdom Literature 5 books	Job Psalms Proverbs Song of Solomon			
History 5 books	Matthew Mark Luke John Acts	Letters 21 books	Romans I & II Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians I & II Thessalonians	I & II Timothy Titus Philemon Hebrews Jamesz I & II Peter I, II, and III John Jude
		 Prophecy	Revelation	



Remember Operation Christmas Child School Supplies!

There are back to school sales going on for all of

the basic school supplies in many stores. These items are great to put in your shoebox gift for Operation Christmas Child. There are children who are not able to go to school because their parents cannot afford the required school supplies. The pencils, pens, and crayons in a shoebox gift may give the child the gift of an education plus the gift of Jesus' love.

