

# The Newsletter

## May 2021

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

# Class of 2021

**Sibley-Ocheyedan High School**



## May at a Glance

- 1-8:** Josh will be gone for classes
- 2:** FRC Teacher Appreciation Sunday
- 5:** 2:00 pm FRC is in charge of Nursing Home Services
  - 6:30pm Congregational Care Meeting
  - 6:30-8 pm MS Remnant Flower Sale and Burger/Brat Supper-to-go
- 11:** 6:00 pm Elder/Deacon Meetings
  - 7:00 pm Full Consistory will meet
- 16:** Senior Recognition Sunday both services
  - 2:00 S-O Graduation Commencement
- 17:** 9:30 am: Faith Bible Study
  - 3:00 pm: Patience Bible Study
- 19:** Last Youth Group time for 20-21 year
- 30:** Communion Prep Sunday

### **\*Sundays:**

9:00am Cornerstone Service  
 Sunday School is on break for Summer  
 10:10 am Fellowship Hour (no coffee)  
 11:00 am Open Door Service

### **\*Wednesday Evening Bible Classes and Youth Groups:**

Bible Classes are on Break for Summer  
 6:30-7:30 pm MS Remnant  
 7:30-8:30 pm HS Remnant

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**  
 712-754-2783  
[sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com)



View our Website at: [sibleyfrc.org](http://sibleyfrc.org)



## Stewardship & Giving

### Offering Summary through April 26:

- General Fund: \$124,476.88  
Budget: \$299,173.35; 41%% of budget
- Benevolent Fund: \$17,080.20  
Budget: \$71,025.61; 24% of budget
- Building Fund offerings to date: \$660

# Faith In Action for May:

## Vacation Bible School

Sign up to help teach, be a helper, bring food, work in the nursery etc!! It takes many people to help make VBS a success!!

### Special offering for May: Northwestern College



### Memorial Day Trivia:



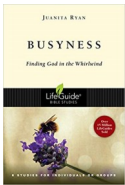
1. When is Memorial Day observed?
2. What was Memorial Day formerly known as?
3. At what time does Congress ask Americans to pause for a moment of remembrance on Memorial Day?
4. How many Americans died in the Vietnam War?
5. What was the first state to make Memorial Day an official holiday?
6. Where is the tomb of the unknown soldier?
7. How old was the youngest US serviceman in WW2?
8. How many Americans died in WW2?
9. From 1868 to 1970, when was Memorial day observed?
10. How many American service members died in Operation Iraqi Freedom?
11. Which war memorial depicts six American servicemen raising a US Flag?



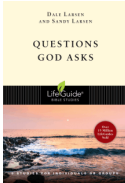
# Bible Study Opportunities

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, May 17 at 9:30 am** in the Fireside Room. We will be studying lesson 8, "Serve With Joy" in our study book, Busyness. The scripture for the morning comes from John 12:1-17, 15:9-12. The lesson leader will be Lynn Schram with Jan Harskamp serving as hostess. Please bring your own beverage. We will be starting our new book Women of the New Testament on June 21. This would make an ideal time for you to join us in our Bible Study. We would welcome you around the table!! If you are interested in joining us please contact Lynn Schram to get a book. All are welcome!



**Patience Bible Study**, who meets the third Monday of most months, will meet on **Monday, May 17 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 #5, "What are you doing here?" Leona will serve as hostess. Come and join us!



**Sunday Morning Men's Bible Study Group: Is on Break until Fall.**





## Cornerstone Service Greeters

- 2: E: Larry and Alfreda Verdoorn  
C: Dick and Marcia Oldenkamp  
W: LaVonne Dykstra
- 9: E: Duane and Pam Vande Hoef  
C: Bill and LaDonn Hartzell  
W: Dave and Sandy Lamfers
- 16: E: John and Lois Van Diepen  
C: Ron and Nancy Dykstra  
W: Clint and Jamie Klaassen
- 23: E: Greg and Deb Kusters  
C: Marlin Roelfs  
W: Robert and Janice Groen
- 30: E: Lawrence and Ruth Ann Wiersma  
C: Dave and Lesa Stofferan  
W: Jim and Pauline Van Engen



**Mothers  
Together**  
With God in the Middle

We are on break until Fall!!  
Have a great Summer everyone!!  
See you again in September!

## Children & Worship Schedule



**Children and Worship is on break for the  
Summer! See you all this Fall!!**

## Willing Hands Group



### Willing Hands Group #5

will be responsible for  
services during the month.

#### Co-chairpersons are:

- Dar/Dennis Jurgens
- Deb/Greg Kusters
- Shelia/Harold Van Der Sloot

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

### Community Express

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## Library Volunteers



- 2: Leanne Van Kley
- 9: Marcia Van Ruler
- 16: Phyllis Vander Linden
- 23: Alfreda Verdoorn
- 30: Kathy/Joel Verdoorn

## Fellowship Coffee Servers



No Coffee Fellowship at this time.

## Nursery

The Nursery will be open for use,  
but unstaffed.

# Grace is when

God gives us good things  
that we don't deserve.

Mercy is when He spares us  
from bad things we deserve.

Blessings are when He is  
generous with both.

Truly, we can never run out  
of reasons to thank Him.

God is good all the time.

@bepositivebehapy



## Meeting Minutes

## Consistory Meeting Highlights

April 13 2021

- **MMSA** for baptism of Joanna Grace Lucas, daughter of Josh and Hannah Lucas at the April 25th 9am Service. Marlin Runia and Harold Ernst in charge.
- **MMSA** for baptism of Brody Lee Wills, son of Kody and Rachel Wills at the May 9th 11am Service. Marlin Runia and Greg Kusters tentatively in charge.
- **MMSA** to drop upon their request the memberships of Kim Van Der Sloot and Lynn Mulder.
- **MMSA** to allow Kody and Rachel Wills to use the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen following the May 9, 11 am service for a family meal.
- **MMSA** to allow serving of an evening meal to attendees of VBS during that week
- **MMSA** to allow the Middle School Youth Group to use the Fireside Room and/or Fellowship Hall for a Mother's Day Flower Sale and serve a take-out Burger/Brat Meal on Wednesday May 5.
- New members Class is still being considered



# May 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.**

- **Sunday School and Wednesday night Bible Classes (1st-5th grade) are on break until Fall! Have a great Summer everyone!!**
- **May 19 will be the last session of Remnant Youth for the 2020-2021 school year.**

## 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

**Kalie DeBoer**

815 8th Street  
Sibley, IA 51249

**Nick and Sara Buysman**

4101 Lovell Rd.  
Apt. 1-319  
Circle Pines, MN 55014

**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**

Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln  
1055 N 16th Street  
S519  
Lincoln, NE 68508

**Alyssa Wassman**

Foundation Residence  
Apartments 103  
1410 Birch Street  
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**

503 10th Ave.  
Sibley, IA 51249

**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 15:13

No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life for his friends. (HCSB)



## Thoughts

To many Memorial Day is just another day off from work, but today the Sportsmen's Devotional Team remembers and honors those who gave their lives to protect America and other nations.

It began in the 1770's when men fought and died to help our nation become free. In wars since then Americans have stepped forward over and over again and given the ultimate sacrifice. We have never asked for anything from the nations where Americans have fought and died except for a small piece of land to bury our soldiers killed in action.

We know thousands of our most faithful readers are sportsmen and women that are currently serving us in other nations within the armed services. We want to say **THANK YOU** for looking after those seeking to be free as well as protecting us today here in America. We also want to recognize the large number of veterans that have served our nation in past conflicts. **THANK YOU!**

Lord, thank you for those who gave their lives and most importantly for our precious gift of salvation Jesus Christ bought with the sacrifice of His Life.

## Action Point

On Memorial Day take the time to seek out at least two veterans and thank them for their service. You can also do this with family members that have lost loved ones while serving our nation. Consider practicing this each Memorial Day and follow through.

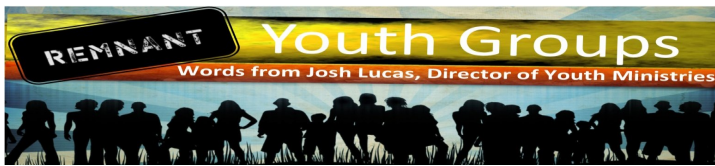
## Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

In the military they teach a soldier to keep their firearm clean and in perfect working order. Apply this to your hunting arms. RIG, Rust Inhibiting Grease, is a dependable universal gun grease and has been around since the 1930's. It offers excellent storage protection for firearms.

### **Trivia Time Answers!!!**

1) Last Monday of May; 2) Decoration Day; 3) 3; 4) 58,220; 5) Michigan; 6) Virginia; 7) 12; 8) 405,399; 9) May 30; 10) 4,411; 11) Marine Corps War Memorial.





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! The middle schoolers finished their series on "Identity." I have been working on editing a video that we have made for you as parents and a congregation to show you what we learned about our identity. We hope to share that video with you in the near future. In high school, for the last few weeks, we have been talking about mental health and how to be watchful of things in this world. We have been really happy with the discussions we have been having with the students as well as the questions that they are asking about the different issues. I also hope that you as parents, who have children in high school, have come home and talked to them about what they learned and compared it to what I have been preaching on. The last few weeks we are closing up youth group for the summer, but we have a very busy summer planned for the students!

We are underway with fundraising for our summer MS trip to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum in June. We are very grateful for all of the support you as a congregation have given us so far with that. God is already providing for this trip and we were not expecting it to happen this fast. The high schoolers are also preparing for their summer mission trip to Louisiana in June. It is interesting how hard it can be to try to get back into the groove of things after you take such a long break. Before COVID we had a system in place, and we had our routine down and then it just stops! It has been a rough couple of months getting these two trips planned and finalized but by the work of the Holy Spirit and God's grace we have done it!

Hannah and I would just like to take a moment as well to say thank you. Thank you to you as a church family who have shown us so much love and encouragement, especially through her second pregnancy. I also really appreciate the opportunity to be able to preach two Sundays a month. As well as giving me encouragement with complements about the messages, I praise God for those moments. I hope that you are blessed, encouraged, and challenged by the messages each time I preach. I am very happy to be on this journey with all of you. Just remember if you ever need a hug this big ole teddy bear has one for you!

Blessings,

Josh Lucas

#### **Dad Jokes with Josh:**

Two guys walked into a bar.  
The third guy ducked.





## PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Pray for our College Students                           | 16. Pray for our Church   |
| 2. Pray for our Church                                     | 17. Brian and Chelsey Alexander;<br>Kimberlie, Riley, Brysen                  |
| 3. Geneva Wissink  | 18. Brian and Elia Althoff; Will, Gracia                                      |
| 4. Gary and Jessa Wolter                                   | 19. Bobby and Dee Baker   |
| 5. Renae Wolter  | 20. John and Sharon Bartels   |
| 6. Chris and Tiffany Wynia;<br>Elizabeth, Codie, Mackenzie | 21. Gretchen Bartelson  |
| 7. Charlie and Brenda Ackerman;<br>Leah, Marissa           | 22. Pray for our College Students   |
| 8. Pray for our College Students                           | 23. Pray for our Church   |
| 9. Pray for our Church                                     | 24. Drew and Keshia Bean; Rylee, Quincy                                       |
| 10. Derek and Megan Ackerman; Quinnley                     | 25. Kaitlyn Bechler   |
| 11. Kayla Ackerman   | 26. Carl Berkenpas  |
| 12. Lars Ackerman  | 27. Davis and Kristen Beyer; MacKenzie, Aidan<br>Dawson, Easton, Kavan, Tayah |
| 13. Mitch and Angie Ackerman                               | 28. Mike and Andrea Block; Michaela, Michael                                  |
| 14. Terry and Chrissy Ackerman; Jaeger, Zoe                | 29. Pray for our College Students   |
| 15. Pray for our College Students                          | 30. Pray for our Church   |
|  | 31. Troy and Meggan Block   |

### 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  
Lane Tangeman  
Carson Van Westen  
Alyssa Wassman

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

Peyton Crichton  
Garrett Sayler  
Makayla Tangeman  
  
Jena Van Marel  
Troy Soat  
  
Hannah Lucas



# 2021

*Class of*



## *Austin Lee Wassman*

*~~Son of Brent and Brenda Wassman~~*

I plan to attend Minnesota West Technical College in Worthington, MN where I plan to major in Plant Science. My favorite church memory was going white water rafting at Rocky Mountain High and having to be pulled back into the raft by Marlin Runia.



## *Andrea Marie Leusink*

*~~Daughter of Tammy Breitweiser~~*

I plan to major in Elementary education at a four year school. At this point I am undecided as to which one that will be. My favorite church memory would probably have to be going to Rocky Mountain High where I professed my faith among other students after a speaker! It has been an amazing journey since then.



## *Wyatt Eugene Dykstra*

*~~Son of Cory and Amy Dykstra~~*

I plan to attend Western Iowa Tech this fall and will be in the Construction Program. My favorite church memory is being able to go on the Mission Trip to Texas twice.



# 2021

*Class of*



## *Dahson Karter De Jong*

*~~Son of Heath and Wendy De Jong~~*

I plan to attend Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa where I plan to pursue a degree in engineering and will continue wrestling. My favorite church memory was during Rocky Mountain High 2016 when Jayden, Austin, Wyatt and I didn't have a chaperone in our room, but the upperclassmen all had adults in their rooms.



## *Jayden Ronald De Boer*

*~~Son of Larry and Melissa De Boer~~*

I am undecided yet as to my future plans. My favorite church memories were Rocky Mountain High, climbing Eagle Cliff and the lock-ins we had at church.



## *Carter Dean Brouwer*

*~~Son of Jerrad and Tracee Brouwer~~*

I plan to attend Northwestern College in the fall. My favorite memory is going on mission trips throughout my years of high school. I enjoyed serving people that were in extreme need. It really opened my eyes to how bad life could be for all of us.

BE A  
*Prayer*  
WARRIOR  
*Luke 21:36*

# PRAYER JOURNAL

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





# Celebrations

## ~~Birthday's~~

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Melissa Julius<br>Kenzie Wills                        | 13 Fay Vos<br>Kacee Van Ruler<br>Kelsey Van Ruler<br>Dale Carda | 24 Teresa Hurlburt<br>Lawrynn Travaille<br>Clayton Wagenaar |
| 2 Brenda Ackerman<br>Andrea Leusink<br>Kristen Hurlburt | 16 Larry Verdoorn<br>Josh Wagenaar<br>Anita Hoting              | 25 Imogene Rasmussen  |
| 4 Rachel Wills  | 17 Katha Kruger   | 26 Brysen Loerts<br>Lane Tangeman                           |
| 5 Harold Schram<br>Amy Carda                            | 19 Brian Alexander  | 27 Cody Hurlburt<br>Riley Christensen                       |
| 6 Dutch Kruger  | 20 Verlyn Smidt   | 28 Sayla Julius   |
| 7 Tayah Beyer   | 21 Larry De Boer<br>Emily Van Westen                            | 29 Laurie Kraayenbrink<br>Daren Rockman<br>Justin Wagenaar  |
| 8 Brenda Post<br>Tami Tracy<br>Codie Wynia              |   | 30 Ed Harskamp<br>Gladys Tiedeman                           |
| 9 Ruth Ann Wiersma                                      |   | 31 Helen Vander Veen<br>Quinnley Ackerman                   |
| 10 Charlie Ackerman<br>Jamie Bruxvoort                  |   |   |
| 11 Josh Lucas<br>Brody Wills                            |   |   |
| 12 Matt Julius<br>Keegan De Zeeuw                       |   |   |

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

## ~~Anniversaries~~

- |                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| 7 Marcus and Angela De Boer     | 50 years |
| 9 Travis and Jill Boeke         | 12 years |
| 10 Dave and Sandy Lamfers       | 41 years |
| 14 Keith and Janelle Van Drunen | 50 years |
| 21 Nick and Sara Buysman        | 1 year   |
| 27 Dale and Karen Honken        | 38 years |
| 28 Troy and Meggan Block        | 16 years |





# CONTINUALLY *REFORMING* TO BE REFORMED

Has anyone ever asked you “What does it mean to be Reformed?” What did you say? This month we are going to take a quick look at what it means to be reformed as individuals, as a congregation and as the people of God in our world.

Let’s begin with being reformed as individuals saved by grace. Once we have been justified, the spirit works in us to make us like Jesus Christ. Our sinful natures need to be **re-formed** or *sanctified*. Until the moment we see God in glory (and are glorified) we are in the process of learning and growing in grace.

*But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in **sanctification**, and the outcome, eternal life. Romans 6:22*

*But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in **sanctification**, and the outcome, eternal life. Romans 8:29*

*But we all, with unveiled faces, looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed** into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18*

As a **reformed** believer we are also to join together with other believers for worship. That is our congregational and denominational joining together as **Reformed** people. We have a form of church government that is built on principles uncovered in scripture.

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1 Peter 2: 9-10*

We are members of First **Reformed** Church of Sibley Iowa and the **Reformed** Church of America (RCA). There are other sister denominations that also aligned with the theological principles of the **Reformation**. All the

denominations that align themselves with the theology of John Calvin are included in the family of **Re-formed** churches. If you can list the **5 Solas of the Reformation**, then you will have our theology in a nutshell: we are saved by faith alone, grace alone, through Christ alone, which we know through scripture alone, to the glory of God alone.

There is one more thing to consider when you think about being **Reformed**—our relationship to the world around us. Think back to the book of Genesis. God created all the world good, and man as very good. It was the sin of Adam that brought the good to an end for not only for individual people but for society and for creation. We live after the fall and the world we live in is no longer good—it is tainted by sin and death. The entire world is waiting for the end of this time of trial and strife. In Revelation 21-22 we are told that God is planning for a new heaven and earth, one without sin.

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” Revelation 21:3-4*



# UNTIL THEN....

Until the Lord returns and brings the new heaven and the new earth into being, we live in this world and need to understand what God expects of us. Since Jesus ascended into heaven after the resurrection | Christians in every generation have had to address the issues of their day and time.

We are facing questions of Social Justice, Critical Race Theory, sexual orientation, economics, abortion, marriage, politics, among many other issues. How are we to understand our tasks? We need to stick to the basics of Christian life—worship, prayer, fellowship and knowing the word of God. When we reform (transform) our minds we will know what is good and perfect.

*And do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

*Romans 12:2*

The various forms of church government suggest different approaches to the relationship of both the church and individual Christians to the world at large.

The **Catholic** church asserts that the church **rules** over all, and the Pope is the head over the church. The rule of heaven is exerted on the earth through the church. The Pope (and the church) have authority over family, society and government. It was this authority that caused American's to question whether or not a Catholic could be president when John Kennedy was running for the office in 1962.

The **Lutheran** church see Christians as walking between two worlds. We have one foot in heaven and one foot on earth. We are to live holy lives here in preparation for the world to come, doing good where we can. The family and church live in this world, but we are looking forward to a new world.

The **Baptist/separatist** churches tend to separate this world from the next, so we are to separate from the world around us. Live holy lives separate from the sinful world around us. Families and the church have nothing to do with society or government.

**Reformed** churches believe that we are to 'tend the garden' and to constantly work to **transform** or **reform** the world that we live in. Traditionally we see three groups within society that each have responsibility for living as God's agents in the world: **Church, Government and Family.**

*And Jesus came and said to them, "All **authority** in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

*Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching** them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* Matthew 28:18-20

The church, government and family each have responsibilities to one another before God. In God's view of the world the government (*authority*) was responsible for making sure that the people of God were safe to live and worship. The church is responsible for worship, for sacraments, for making disciples. The family is the place where men and women live out Godly lives, raising children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, teaching them to believe in God (*teaching*). Each has a sphere of responsibility—to God and to one another.

*As we have said before, we look at the world through the lens of Creation—Fall and—Redemption!*

Being the

## Rowland and Jane Van Es



Dear Friends,

When Jeremiah, a 2013 graduate of St. Paul's University (SPU), preached his first message to one couple and a child at the Kitengela church plant in January of 2017 he could have been very discouraged. He probably couldn't begin to imagine that in just four years it would be a vibrant congregation with an average attendance of 75 worshippers. Jeremiah says, "By the grace of God the church has been growing from strength to strength numerically and spiritually—thanks to the great contributions of some SPU students."

For several years, the Reformed Church of East Africa (RCEA) congregation in Kawangware had the vision to plant a church in Kitengela town. They had a one-acre plot that had been donated but, because it was a bit further out of town, they weren't sure if it was ideal for a church plant.

Jeremiah was sent to complete a survey and decided it could be used to start a church. A tent was erected on the property and attendance was small. Eventually, some young boys who were grazing their sheep and goats in the area drew near to listen. From this, a Sunday school was born which is still the backbone of Kitengela church.

Another key outreach of the church is Vacation Bible School. K-12 Schools in Kenya don't have a three-month summer break. Instead, they are in school for three months and then have one month off in April, August, and December. This gives the church a chance to have not just one VBS, but three each year. For the first VBS in April 2017, the kids from Kawangware traveled one and a half hours by bus to join the 15 kids from Kitengela for VBS fun: singing, playing, memorizing scripture verses, and getting to know God and each other.

Of course, running a church plant takes a lot of manpower, or in the case of Kitengela, plenty of women power. Jeremiah needed help and invited some of the St Paul's University (SPU) students from the RCEA to serve as volunteers. The first year Winnie joined him, the second year Milly, the third year Naomi and Michelle, and last year Vivian did her pastoral internship there.

Jeremiah says that each volunteer brought their gifts and talents and blessed the new church. Winnie helped organize the first VBS. Milly started a weekly women's fellowship group. She also organized her SPU friends to preach on Sundays. Naomi and Michelle were good at mentoring youth and doing home visits. Vivian taught the women how to crochet which became a good way for them to make a little money during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.



In August 2019, Kitengela hosted the ordination of two women connected to both the RCEA and SPU: Lydia and Rebecca (both SPU theology graduates). This year after celebrating their fourth anniversary, Kitengela was recognized as a new congregation of the RCEA on February 7. They called Rev. Rebecca as their first parish minister.

This new church has plans to keep on growing. Just as they started from the gift of one acre of land many years ago, so they are expanding from another gift. One of the boys who came to an early VBS got so excited about the church that when he told his mother about it, she donated two acres of land that she has 150 km away. Now Kitengela church has the vision to plant a new church on that property. Never underestimate the value of Sunday school and trust God to use all the manpower available, especially if some of it comes from women!


We thank God for the gifts and talents of our students here at St. Paul's University. It is always exciting to see how God is using them. We feel privileged to play a part in their training for ministry. Please consider [supporting St. Paul's Scholarships fund](#) to assist needy in their pursuits to become servant leaders. Thank you for your continued partnership in mission!


Rowland and Jane





## From the library--

Have you been checking the library lately? We have been adding a number of new books. Many of you like Amish books. Two books of a trilogy by Kathleen Fuller were donated and we have finished the series of "Amish Brides of Birch Creek. Read the following to see if you are interested:

 Book #1- THE FARMER'S BRIDE—Martha Detweiler has a problem many Amish women her age would envy: she's the only single woman in a community of young men, and they are all competing for her favor. Overwhelmed by the unwanted attention, Martha finds herself constantly fleeing from her would-be suitors, dismayed at what her life has come to. Birch Creek's resident matchmaker, Cevilla Schlabach, suggests a solution: Martha and the bishop's son, Seth Yoder, should pretend they are dating. What better way to keep the other young men away? But Seth is the only man around not interested in Martha. He has a secret hobby that keeps him away from social gatherings: woodcarving. Having grown up in poverty, he's determined to keep his father's farm successful, even if it means he has no time for dating. Then Delilah Stoll, a new resident of Birch Creek, eyes Seth as the perfect man for her granddaughter. Suddenly Cevilla's proposition doesn't seem all that ludicrous. Can Seth and Martha convince their family and friends to leave them alone?

 Book #2-THE TEACHER'S BRIDE—Christian Ropp moves to Birch Creek to accept a teaching position in the rapidly growing Amish community. He's determined to put the rambunctious school in order as well as check another task off his list: find a wife. Of course, that would be much easier if he could understand women as clearly as he understands his textbooks. When an accident put Christian out of commission, a new community member named Ruby Glick takes over his classroom. But Ruby's exuberant teaching style clashes with Christian's careful methods, and he worries his students will never be the same. With a track record of catastrophe, Ruby always feels too clumsy, too distracted, too... Desperate for a chance to prove that she can do more than make mistakes in her life, she throws herself into her new teaching position. But when Christian can't seem to stay out of her way, she finds herself slipping into old, chaotic tendencies. What she doesn't anticipate is that Christian's heart is slowly catching up with his mind—and she, too, must decide whether to follow logic or love.

 Book #3-THE INNKEEPER'S BRIDE—When Selah Ropp returns to Birch Creek, she is a different person from when she left. "I know I haven't done much listening in the past, Lord," she prays. "But I'm listening now." Her new friend, Cevilla Schlabach, urges her to let go of regrets and allow this to be a fresh start. Cevilla herself, though, hides a secret longing behind her weathered face. Levi Stoll and his family spent a year transforming a large English house into a small inn. Now that they are open for business, Levi is pleased to have Selah join them as an employee—as long as his grandmother doesn't try any matchmaking schemes on the two of them. After all, Selah seems as guarded as he feels, and the last thing he wants is for anyone to remind him of his history.

 If you have been reading the latest trilogy by Colleen Coble, "The Pelican Harbor Series," you will want to watch for the book THREE MISSING DAYS. It has been processed and is now in circulation.

~~Jeannette Juffer

# Advice for the Graduate

(and all of us)  
From Ephesians 6:10-17

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

N Y Y O D M Y P I F A I T H J W D E Q N Q R X T  
N R O O B B Z X V N S R G C L H T U R T K M A X  
X E O I Q Q V Q H W X Y S U C E S I A I J W N W  
G A Z I E A B P O F R B U F K O Y B O R Q N K X  
R D D D Z L K R O A K U J K U E J T L I S W Y D  
I I V B U L R Y K P C H W Z B N G Z K P F B S U  
G N Q M D A G G V M S O P O L N A G Y S R J M C  
H E P J Z V F N I I M I T P R K T U O U L C H P  
T S Z E E B B C U T E M L E H D O Z O D Q X T P  
E S T K A L T G U D S L T K A Y H M N L N F H T  
O L V N V C N I N S H D C A M G R Q C B Y B X N  
U N F E U I E A L H Y W A H M A O E B D J Q O O  
S K R O T K T A U T H O R I T I E S I L J A F L  
N X A X M S B B S Q Y F L A M I N G P P X I I A  
E X E N W M S A K C U E T A L P T S A E R B N U  
S Y U Y J D L S S X G G D H F Q N S X F L C A T  
S T D G P V O C T C Y K L T F R V C I K X L L I  
H Q Q L A S O D R B T P E C S S P V X A G D L R  
Q U W T D H K J O T H T I I W B K O Q J W R Y I  
B M I Q M B C S N G G E H T Q Y N U W S T O K P  
B O S Z X Z G A G A I T S E S P G B R E U W G S  
N E K F B T C Y F R M D F E V Y E F B J R S P W  
P B S V E T F J C C K M Z F A L B G J L F D P T  
G V W P W U U X N Q P G K T T H S I K H H Y Z F

Armour	Arrows
Breastplate	Extinguish
Finally	Flaming
Helmet	Mighty
Readiness	Righteousness
Spirit	Spiritual
Sword	Truth
Authorities	Belt
Faith	Feet
God	Gospel
Peace	Power
Salvation	Shield
Stand	Strong
Waist	Word



MOTHER'S DAY  
**Flower Sale**  
& Burger/Brat Supper-to-go  
Sponsored by the Middle School Remnant Youth Group

Wednesday  
**May 5th**  
6:30pm-8pm

Flowers Galore Including: Bedding Plants, Beautiful  
Hanging Baskets, and Gorgeous Arrangements



All Proceeds go toward the MS Remnant Ark Encounter/Creation Museum Trip this Summer!!



**Sunday, June 6-Thursday, June 10**  
**5:30pm-8:30pm**

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

Visit our Website ([sibleyfrc.org](http://sibleyfrc.org)) or the link below to  
register your students and Volunteer to help!

<https://vbspro.events/p/2d5e04>