

When you think of the 1960's, images of hippies may come to mind. For me personally, the women's fashion and hair trends are my mental images. Sometimes, I feel like I could have been a "hippie" chick from the 1960's. I am a minimalist when it comes to fashion, make up and clothes. I always have been. I do not wear makeup except for the occasional, maybe once a year shindig. I am not one to curl my hair. In fact, I do not own hair products like, gels and mousses or even hairspray, curling irons or hairdryers! I am not one to dress up as I prefer comfortable clothes over what is fashionable or trendy at the moment. This is me.

When it comes to my hair, I like it long. I will let it hang straight back or if I am really feeling sassy, I will put it in a pony tail clip. Poor Brenda (Ackerman). She has been my hairstylist for 20+ years and the most fun she ever gets to have with my hair is to give me a trim on the ends. She never complains to me, but I can tell she would love to do something different, something exciting. This past week, she finally got to do that. As many of you saw, my hair is shorter! I have had several compliments on it and for that I thank you. However, this what not something I wanted to do. In fact, I spent many days crying about it. You see, the reason behind the haircut was not because I wanted a new do. The reason for the haircut is because my hair is falling out. I am balding.

Wow, that was hard to write. But it is my reality right now. I can tell you that it pains me, pains me to wash and comb my hair. The amount of hair that comes out of my head with these everyday tasks is making me ill. I dread these moments. Brenda Ackerman gave me some things to make it look like my hair is fuller than it is. Those beauty professionals have all the tricks. But I can see the bald spots. They are there and getting bigger. At the rate I am losing hair, I may shave it off yet.

As I sat in her chair getting it cut off, tears streamed down my face. Maybe I am vain. Maybe we all are. Hair is a part of our identity. We chose the style, the cut, the color, the length. It's one thing that I felt I had control over. And through my tears I heard God speaking to me. He was reminding me once again, that no matter how much I thin I am in control, He is the one who is. He wants me to realize that it's not about my plans but His. Not my will be done, but His. And what a beautiful reminder to all of us!

In Matthew 10:29-31 Jesus says, *"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."* Nothing I have ever done has been hidden from heaven. God sees it all. As Job says, "He sees everything I do, and every step I take" (Job 31:4). And Jesus tells us, "Every hair on your head has been counted" (Luke 12:7 GW). God knows every detail of my life. He watches every breath I take. Jesus says that His Father has taken the time to count each one of the hairs on our head! While we may be pre-occupied by the color of our hair or how many are falling out on a daily basis, our Father focuses in on each strand. What incredible attention to detail!

It is amazing to think that such insignificance in our eyes seems so important to God. God is so big that He scoops the oceans in the palm of His hand, and yet He is so small that He can number each hair on our head. Even the falling of an insignificant sparrow requires His attention. Jesus encourages us that if our Father is intimately involved in the falling of one sparrow, how much more is He involved in our everyday lives!

We don't have to be afraid, for our Father is watching over us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. He really, really loves us and is involved in the smallest details of our lives. If there are days that you feel alone, when you think that no one is really attending to your needs, remember this scripture passage. He has taken the time to count each hair on your head, not because He is bored or has nothing else to do, but to simply demonstrate your great worth in His sight. His call to you is not to be afraid. He is in control of all that goes on in your life and since He cares for the sparrows, He will certainly care for you and me.

1 Peter 3:3-4: *Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.*

# The Newsletter

## Words from Pastor Luke

April 2016

First Reformed Church

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

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is all about the old self and new. When Christ died and rose, new life can and has been brought to each one of us. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 it reads, **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"** Jesus Christ has brought restoration into our lives. Daily I am amazed at what God has done for me. The sin that held me back has been taken away by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. As we were once destined for the junk pile we are now being worked on to become new again. How grateful and thankful we can be that God, would be willing to choose us to be made new.



If you recall last year at Easter I had this old, rusted out car up on the stage of church. I am pretty confident that many of you thought maybe I was a little crazy for even taking on such a task. Why would I go to such extremes to more or less completely restore this car? After all, to many it was a piece of junk. Is that maybe how we feel sometimes with God? Why would God want to take me, a piece of junk and bring new life into me? The beauty in my project is the opportunity I have to make it something new. I can make it maybe even better. When God sent his Son He did that same thing. He is taking us, with sin from birth and making us into something even better. We will become individuals who because of Jesus will have no fault in the eyes of God. Isaiah 1:18 describes what Jesus did for us this way. **"Come now, let us settle the matter,"** says the Lord. **"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."** Whatever sin that is within our lives with the grace and forgiveness of God will be gone. What wonderful joy we can find in that.

The old car I am restoring from that last Easter has been a challenge. I had to remove even more of the car because of the rust. By the time I got done there literally was just one small section kept. But since then we have gradually been adding the new and in the coming years eventually it will be restored to its entirety. In the meantime I will keep plugging away when I find time and enjoy the vision of what it will eventually look like. You can see what the new is doing off to the side here. It continues to be a work in progress. God is doing that same thing. We are a work in progress until we stand before God. Philippians 1:6 says, **"being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."**

I hope and pray that you know that God's grace has overflowed into your life. He chose you to be restored. He did so because He loves you! I look forward to showing you more pictures each year of this restoration and that it might remind you of God's restoration within your life.



Love You All! ~Pastor Luke

## News from Jeff and Chelsea Lampen:

Dear First Reformed Church in Sibley,

It's hard to believe that it has been 7 months since we moved here to Romania! We hope and trust that Chelsea's family has been keeping you updated on the different adventures we've been having and the steps along the way! It is difficult at times to be apart from our families, but we know that they are in good hands in your congregation in Sibley.

We just wanted to give you a little update about life here in Romania. After 5 months and 5 moves into 5 different apartments, we're finally settled in, praise the Lord! We are also learning the ropes of our new jobs: Chelsea is connecting with many different colleges in the States, encouraging them to send interns as she continues to develop learning and service opportunities for those who come to Romania. She's also very involved at a local children's library. Jeff is working on a curriculum revision for the IMPACT program, a youth group model focused on experiential education through service learning projects. He is very excited about the prospect of helping to host a training for Orthodox Church leaders next week, as well as re-centering the existing IMPACT curriculum on the love and worship of Jesus Christ. Lorelei is now 2 and a half years old, and enjoys playing with her babysitter, making new friends, having tea parties with Daddy, dancing, and singing.

Before we list our prayer requests below, we wonder if there is any way that we here in Lupeni could be holding Sibley Reformed in our prayers - how is God leading you through the working of the Holy Spirit?

In addition to reading our prayer requests here, we encourage you to join our Facebook group, "Friends of the Lampens in Romania." There you can see many pictures and get weekly updates on our daily life in Romania.

We ask God for perseverance as we continue to increase our ability to communicate in Romanian.

- We ask God to hold our family especially close next week, as Jeff will be attending trainings and meetings all next week in places far from home, while Chelsea and Lorelei remain in Lupeni, before driving across the country to meet Lennis and Britta in Bucharest.
- We thank God for the opportunities to host our families as they visit in the next few weeks and months; we also pray for safety in our travels during these periods.

May God bless your lives and work in Sibley!

Jeff, Chelsea, and Lorelei Lampen

### New Business:

Serving Coffee before church was referred to the Congregational Care Committee for further discussion.

MMSC to allow the next T.E.C. (Teens Encountering Christ) to hold their next T.E.C. at FRC, Sibley, Ia. This would take place on the weekend of August 4-7, 2016.

For information; The Church office will be updating its internet and phone service as of the first of the month. The cost will go down from \$179.82/mo. to \$134/mo. plus tax; and the internet service will be much faster.

Treasure's report was given by Derek Heronimus.

Dean Van Marel shared the Deacon's business.

Elder's minutes were read for information.

MMSC to approve the minutes by title only.

MMSC to adjourn following prayer by Derek Heronimus.

*"People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.*

*If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.*

*If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.*

*The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.*

*Gave the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.*

*For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway."*

*~Mother Teresa*

## Quotefall Solutions:

**Number 41: Blessings crown the head of the righteous (Proverbs 10:6) NIV**

**Number 42: Professing themselves to be wise they became fools (Romans 1:22) KJV**

**Number 43: I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16) KJV**

CONSISTORY MINUTES

March 28, 2016

Elder’s Meeting 6:00pm

6 present a quorum

Pastor Luke opened the meeting with prayer.  
**Membership changes:**  
MMSC to except the membership papers for Roger Verdoorn and Bryan Verdoorn from the Worthington Christian Reformed Church in Worthington, Mn.  
MMSC to except the membership papers for Alan Julius from the Presbyterian Church in Little Rock, Ia.  
MMSC to except the membership papers for Dan and Maureen Heilman from Good News Community Church in Okoboji, Ia.  
MMSC to approve the Baptism for Jori Nicole, daughter of Jeremy and Jill Leusink on May 29, 2016.  
MMSC to approve the Baptism for Witten Julius son of Alan and Lacey Julius, date to be decided on later.  
MMSC to except the Profession of Faith of Lacey Julius who met with the Elders to confess her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.  
MMSC to approve the request of Kaitlin (Koerselman) Raak to have her membership papers be transferred to Emmanuel Reformed Church of Springfield, SD.  
MMSC to approve the request of Holly Hinrichs and children Parker and Tayla to have their membership papers sent to The First Presbyterian Church in Sibley, Ia.  
Approval of Church use:  
MMSC to allow Alecia Martinez the use of the Fireside Room on Saturday April 9, 2016 from 12pm - 4pm for a program called “Queen For A Day”; money collected for this program is to be used to cover the cost of the event.  
Elders shared on calls made this month.  
The Constitutional question was asked of the Elders: Are there any members who need spiritual care this month.  
MMSC to approve the minutes as read.  
MMSC to adjourn following prayer by Marcus De Boer.

Full Consistory Meeting 7:00pm

12 present a quorum

Pastor Luke opened the meeting by asking the question “What does it mean to be God Filled” based on Jn.1:14, Eph. 4:13, Col. 1:19, and Col. 2:9-10; and opened with prayer.  
**Ministry Team reports were given:**  
Outreach: working on getting another mission trip lined up.  
Worship: Lennis Harberts reported on their trip to Romania.  
Education and Youth Ministries: MMSC to have the Education Committee and the Youth Ministry Committee search for a new DOY. They are to recommend the individual they approve of to the Administration Committee, as well as recommend the salary that they propose for this individual.  
**Old Business:**  
MMS to have our Annual Congregational Meeting on a day other than Sunday. Motion was defeated.  
Church By-Laws were reviewed: MMSC to change Article IV, Section 5. The words “elected” used twice in that sentence are to be changed to “recommended”. To be reviewed again next month for final approval.

News From The Renes’

This morning it snowed a couple of inches at our home here in Iowa. Often when I am out scooping snow, I think of many translators around the world who have never seen snow. To most it is a mystery and they are fascinated by the thought of what snow is like.  
Snow around our home in Iowa this morning  
Did you know that there are about 30 references to the word "snow" in the Bible?

The first passage with the word "snow" is in Exodus when God asks Moses to put his hand in his cloak and then to take it out; "...he took it out and it was leprous like snow."  
Another reference is when God confronts Job and asks, "Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or seen the storehouses of the hail?"

Many of us think of a Psalm with the very familiar words of repentance; "Purge me with hys-sop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."  
Another verse we know from memory are the Lord's words to the prophet Isaiah; "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." (ESV)

Some languages do not have a word for snow. What should they do? How does a translator deal with a word that they don't have in their own language?

In some of these passages a translator may say "white-white" or "very white" when the focus is on the color. Recently, some translators told me they use cotton for comparison and I have heard others use egret feathers. For translation, the focus is always on understanding and not necessarily finding an exact word or borrowing a word that may be misunderstood. The message is more important than the form used to convey the message.

Given their many challenges, pray for translators as they look for meaningful words, words that convey truth and a message that leads to life.

Your partner in mission, Brian Renes

*Brian and Donna Renes have been involved in the work of Bible translation since 1989. Their first years of ministry were spent among the Tojolabal people in Chiapas, Mexico. Since 1996 Brian has worked with the United Bible Societies, giving support to national translators and consultants. He teaches them how to effectively use the computer in their work of translating the Bible into languages such as Quechua, which is spoken in Peru, and the Kuna language of Panama. Donna ministers to Hispanic children in the Sioux Center, Iowa, area through the teaching of English as a Second Language. Brian serves in partnership with United Bible Societies.*

Greeters for April, 9 am

- Apr 3 West-Arnie and Diane Langstraat  
Middle-Gary and Wilma Leusink  
East-Jeremy and Jill Leusink/family
- 10 West-Brad and Sarah Loerts/family  
Middle-Brian and Megan Loerts/family  
East-Ken and Wilma Loerts
- 17 West-Ruth Loerts and Pat Muilenburg  
Middle-Dave and Jessica McDyer/family  
East-John and Kim Mc Dougall/family
- 24 West-Ed and Leona Meendering  
Middle-Cliff and Linda Mehls/family  
East-Regina Meyer/family



Nursery for April 9:00 am

- April 3: Laurel and Natalie Klaassen
- 10: Gina and Jaden Jacobsma
- 17: Brenda Michelson and Linda Mehls
- 24: Jenna Ver Steeg and Chelsey Town

Nursery for April 11:00 am

- April 3: Missy Julius and Kim Van Der Sloom
- 10: Cathy and Victoria Vande Hoef
- 17: Lynn and Alex Mulder
- 24: Amy and Mariah Elser



*We must let go of the life we have planned, so as to accept the one that is waiting  
for us.  
~Joseph Campbell*

April Library News

Enjoy listening to music? The Youth Music Library (over 100 CDs) has been moved from the basement youth room and is now in the Church Library. You'll find the CDs on the lower open shelves along the south wall. These CDs may be checked out by writing your name in the notebook on the line corresponding with the name of the CD you are borrowing. The notebook is located on top of the shelves where the CD are stored. Please make use of this opportunity!

Do you remember when Keith Zylstra was our guest speaker in February? His message was about the Prodigal Son and he mentioned a book that he enjoyed reading. The book was LAST ONE HOME by Debbie Macomber. We have purchased it and is now part of our library. Here is a synopsis from the cover: "Growing up, Cassie Carter and her sisters, Karen and Nichole, were incredibly close--until one fateful event drove them apart. Now thirty-one, Cassie is back in Washington, living in Seattle with her daughter and hoping to leave her past behind. After ending a difficult marriage, Cassie is back on her own two feet, the pieces other life slowly but surely coming together. Despite the strides Cassie's made, she hasn't been able to make peace with her sisters. Then one day Cassie receive a letter from Karen, offering what Cassie thinks may be a chance to reconcile. And as Cassie opens herself up to new possibilities--making amends with her sister finding love once more--she realizes the power of compassion, and the promise of a fresh start."

Another new book in the library is by Billy Graham. In WHERE IS AM, Mr. Graham shares what the Bible has to say about eternity from all of its sixty-six books; messages of truth, warning, love, and the certainty of the future, all gleaned by a man who would like to be remembered solely as a preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Each short chapter examines the reality that each of us chooses where to spend life after death: Heaven or Hell. From the Old Testament writer who composed "Show me Your ways, O Lord" (Psalm 25:4) to the New Testament writer who penned the words of Jesus, "Whoever believes in [Me] should not perish" (John 3:16), there is hope for anyone who puts his or her faith and trust in the One who gives us the promise, "Where I am, there you may be also" (14:3).

Be sure to come into the library to see else what is available. The two books mentioned above are in large print.

Alfreda Verdoorn and Jeannette Juffer



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# After Church Greeters for April

3 SE: Harold Ernst  
C: Pastor Luke  
SW: Henry Fisher  
BE: Stan Gaalswyk  
BW: Lennis Harberts

10 SE: Pastor Luke  
C: Ed Harskamp  
SW: Bill Hartzell  
BE: Dale Honken  
BW: Dan Janssen

17 SE: Corky Koerselman  
C: Pastor Luke  
SW: Dr. Greg Kusters  
BE: Arnie Langstraat  
BW: Ken Loerts

24 SE: Ed Meendering  
C: Lyle Peelen  
SW: Pastor Luke  
BE: Larry Riebeling  
BW: Cal Runia

## Library Volunteers

April 3-Phyllis Vander Linden  
April 10-Alfreda Verdoorn  
April 17- Kathy/Joel Verdoorn  
April 24-Ruth Ann Wiersma

## Sunday School Nursery

03- Lana Hibma & Sandy Lamfers  
10- Jill Leusink & Megan Loerts  
17- Tami Tracy & Barb Van Diepen  
24- Ellen Schram & Janelle Van Drunen

## Willing Hands Group

Willing Hands Group #4 will be responsible for services during the month of April. Co-chairpersons are Karen and Dale Honken, Kim and John Mc Dougall and Marcia and Dick Oldenkamp.



## Sportsmen's Devotional

### Bible Study Verse: Leviticus 22:32

And you shall not profane my holy name, that I may be sanctified among the people of Israel. I am the Lord who sanctifies you. (ESV)

### Thoughts

One of the most important things that we learn as sportsmen is safety. No matter what type of sport we are participating in, there is usually an element of safety involved. Some of it is common-sense stuff, but most of the time there are safety components that should be learned. Someone taught you about safety in your particular sport.

As a child, my dad taught me about gun safety:

- Always treat a gun as if it were loaded;
- Never point a gun at somebody;
- Always be aware of what is beyond your intended target;
- Never climb a stand with a loaded gun.

The list goes on and on . . .

My education from my Dad went beyond sporting safety. He also took time to teach me spiritually. One of the things that he and my mother taught me was to never take the Lord's name in vain. It seems that we live in an age of ignorance when it comes to this principle.

We, of course, have the normal secular culprits of television, radio, movies and other media that freely take the Lord's name in vain. But it seems we have a lot of "Christians" who freely throw God's name around without respect to its holiness. (Josh C)

### Action Point

It should bother us when we hear God's Holy Name used in vain. Take time to educate your children about the holiness of God's name, and be bothered when you hear someone belittle it. There are a lot of other words that can go in place of His name as a common exclamation. Find one you like and use it instead.

### Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

As you educate your youth in the sporting hobbies that you enjoy, pass on the safety tips that you have learned and practiced yourself. Ensure that they can enjoy them for a lifetime.

## April Birthdays

- 1 Dahson De Jong
- 2 Kim Van Der Sloom  
Kailey Bruxvoort
- 3 Angela De Boer  
Gary De Vries
- 4 Ger Van Diepen
- 5 Wilma Leusink
- 8 Pam Vande Hoef  
Mary Hustoft  
Randy Bremer
- 9 Lyle Peelen
- 10 Marilyn De Boer  
John Juffer
- 11 Melissa Anderson
- 12 Ellen Schram  
Stan Gaalswyk

- 13 Steve Mulder
- 14 Dave Lamfers  
Bill Hartzell
- 15 Sylvia Bosma
- 16 Martha Krikke  
Troy Block
- 17 Margaret Calsbeek  
LaDonn Hartzell  
Andrew Zylstra
- 18 Michelle Kraayen-  
brink
- 19 Grace Hoekstra
- 21 Michaela Block
- 22 Twila Heemstra
- 23 LeRoy De Boer

- 24 Randy Vande Berg  
Matthew Jurgens  
Apiyo Harberts  
Uchan Harberts
- 26 Melissa Langstraat  
Grant Brouwer
- 27 Dennis Jurgens
- 28 Janice Heikes  
Katelyn Kusters  
Madeline Sayler
- 30 Paige Hurlburt



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

## April Anniversaries

- 02 George and Rhonda Henrichs 22 years
- 06 Chris and Teresa Hurlburt 20 years
- 07 Lesa Stofferan 38 years
- 08 Brian and Jamiey Daiker 11 years
- 19 John and Jan Juffer 48 years
- 27 Roger and Carol Iedema 43 years
- 28 Dean and Amy Van Marel 26 years



## April Faith In Action:

Faith in Action for April is the church kitchen. Items that will be used are napkins, paper towels, Dawn dish soap, some Clorox wipes or some other type of disinfected wipes. scouring pads. 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!

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04-28-2014

TOM YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT I GOT FRONT ROW SEATING AGAIN OH MY GOODNESS RUN UP HERE NOW I'LL SAVE IT WHILE I CAN

