

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2018



January at a Glance

- 1: Happy New Year!!
- 2: 9:00 Coffee With the Pastor
 - No Wed. Night Classes
- 5: 9:00am Secret Sister Reveal
- 6: Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons
- 9: 9:00 am: Mothers Together
2:00 pm: Nursing Home services
- 13: Youth Sunday
- 14-25: Meals on Wheels
- 21: 9:00 am: Faith Bible Study
 - 4:00 pm: Patience Bible Study
 - 6:00 pm: Elder/Deacon Meeting
 - 7:00 pm: Full Consistory

*Sunday Mornings:

- 9:00 Cornerstone Service
- 10:10 Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship
- 11:00 Open Door Service

*Monday Evenings:

- 7:00 Women's Bible Study

*Tuesday mornings:

- 8:30 Chickadee Quilters

*Wednesday Evening Bible Classes and Youth Groups:

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

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As we enter into yet another new year it is easy to take the time to look back at what happened in the previous year. As I find myself writing this article I can think of those things which were a wonderful blessing and those things which I wish I could do over. But as I think about last year I am reminded, it is what it is. It is what it is because that is exactly how God planned it.

2018 was a challenging year for me in many ways. It was challenging as a pastor, as a father, as a husband, as a coach and in any other role I had. There were times when I was humbled, felt insufficient, not living up to expectations, and maybe even disappointed others. But I also know God used some of those challenges to grow me and depend on Him more. Each of us has had that particular time when, what we had to experience, we would never want to experience again. But also know that God took those situations and brought blessing, courage, strength, wisdom and perseverance.

That's the beauty of God. No matter the situation He is there, and He will help us move forward. We are even a better people because of it. I am reminded of this verse that always challenges me. It is from Proverbs 3:5-6 and it says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."

I think that would be a great verse for you to put out in front of you for 2019. If we seek God, trust Him with all our heart we will have a pretty awesome 2019 because He will make our path straight. We will still have those things which we will want to take back, we will still make mistakes. After all we are human. But if we trust God and acknowledge Him in our daily walk we will also experience incredible blessing no matter the situation.

I am truly excited about 2019. It is not only a new year, but it is an opportunity for God to do some awesome and amazing things. God is going to work in my life, God will work in your life, and God is going to work in the life of this church. I envision us finding direction, purpose and greater ministry opportunities. We can be a church that is moving forward doing kingdom work and bringing people to a new relationship with Christ.

Here is my challenge. I want to encourage you to look at where you are in your relationship with Christ. What can you do in this next year to grow and be challenged in your faith. Maybe it's committing to daily devotions and prayer. It might be being more active in your church attendance. It could be joining a bible study or even taking a bolder step and leading a bible study. It might be one on one discipleship with someone. It could be teaching a Sunday school or bible class. It could be giving up a week of your time and going on a mission trip.

Just push yourself to take a step or two closer to Christ. God will help us move forward if we are willing to take the steps. This year could bring amazing blessing and joy. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight!"

Blessings for 2019 and Happy New Year!!

Pastor Luke


It's Coffee Time!
With the Pastor!!
 Come join Pastor Luke
 and Josh for coffee
 at 9 am on January 2nd.
 We would love to see you all!



 **Stewardship & Giving**

Special offering for December: Benevolent
 Offering Summary through December 21
 General Fund: \$356,398.36;
 Budget: \$311,308; 114% of budget
 Benevolent Fund: 73,262.14;
 Budget: 108,215; 67% of budget
 Building Fund: 2245.00;
 Budget: 54,210; 4% of budget

Want to contribute?
 Scan here with your
 smart phone to link to
 our online donation page!



January
Faith In Action:
Layettes
for the
Center of
Hope



**All donated items need
 to be NEW. Thanks!**

**May GOD be with you
 through NEW YEAR**
 and fill your life with
COMFORT, LOVE and CHEER.
 May this day and the days ahead,
 Hold many **BLESSINGS**
 for you and yours.

Happy New Year!

Trivia Time!!! The Creation

1. What did God create in the first day? (Genesis 1:3-5)
A) Air B) Water C) Light D) Celestial bodies (planets, moons, stars, etc.)
2. Which did God NOT create on the sixth day?
A) Birds B) Man C) Woman D) Some Animals
3. What did God call the firmament? (Genesis 1:8)
A) Heaven B) Space C) Cloud D) Earth
4. Which are the 'greater light' and the 'lesser light'? (Genesis 1:16)
A) Sun; Moon B) Sun; Stars C) Heavenly Father; The Holy Spirit D) Heavenly Father; Son of God
5. How did God water the plants? (Genesis 2:5-6)
A) He Sent Rain B) the plants didn't need water C) Adam and Eve D) He sent mist
6. Who named the living creatures? (Genesis 2:18)
A) The Woman B) The Man C) God D) The Man and Woman

Cornerstone Service Greeters, 9 am



6: West—Gary and Sandy De Vries
Middle—Stan and Abby De Zeeuw/family
East—Glenn and Paul Doorenbos

13: West—Merlin and Karen Doorenbos
Middle—LaVon Dykstra and JoAnn Klaassen
East—Mark and Tanya Dykstra/family

20: West—Ron and Nancy Dykstra
Middle—Scott and Marlys Dykstra
East—Trudy Dykstra and Anita Ernst

27: West— Harold and Luella Eggink
Middle—Harold and Mim Ernst
East—Henry and Barb Fisher



9:00 am Nursery

6: Gina Jacobsma & Brenda Michelson
13: Jenna Ver Steeg & Chelsey Alexander
20: Kayla Hoekstra and Chelsea Hulstein
27: Rachel Wills and Sandy Lamfers

Library Volunteers



6: Leona Meendering
13: LaVonne Prins
20: Janice Runia
27: Jen Schram

Sunday School Nursery



6: Megan Loerts
13: Tami Tracy
20: Pam Vande Hoef
27: Peg Van Kley

Prayer With the Elders



10:00

6: Lawrence Wiersma
13: Dale Honken
20: Bill Hartzel
27: Dr. Greg Kosters

11:00 am Nursery



6: Sarah Loerts and Megan Loerts
13: Marvella Harberts and Missy Julius
20: Anne and Kaylee Maxwell
27: Kira Christensen and Maureen Heilman

12:00

6: Marlin Roelfs
13: Duane Vande Hoef
20: Dick Oldenkamp
27: Harold Ernst

January Willing Hands Group



**Willing Hands
Group #1**
will be responsible for
services during the month.

Co-chairpersons are:

- ◆ Marvella/Lennis Harberts
- ◆ Diane/Arnie Langstraat

Fellowship Coffee Servers



- 6:** Ron and Nancy Dykstra
13: Harold and Luella Eggink
20: Harold and Mim Ernst
27: Stan and Gert Gaalswyk

Children and Worship Leaders/Helpers



Cornerstone Service 9:00 am

- 6:** Leader: **Deb Kusters**
Helper: Alexis Hulstein
13: Leader: **Jamie Hulstein**
Helper: The Family of Brynna Loerts
20: Leader: **Deb Kusters**
Helper: Ashilyn Hulstein
27: Leader: **Deb Kusters**
Helper: The Family of Logan Ver Steeg

Open Door Service 11:00 am

- 6:** Leader: **Deb Kusters**
Helper: The Family of Nora Fox
13: Leader: **Deb Kusters**
Helper: The Family of Jackson Van Tilburg
20: Leader: **Deb Kusters**
Helper: The Family of Addison McDyer
27: Leader: **Deb Kusters**
Helper: The Family of

After Church Greeters



- | | |
|--|--|
| 6: SE: Pastor Luke
C: Josh Lucas
SW: Dick Oldenkamp
BE: Lyle Peelen
BW: Larry Riebeling | 20: SE: Duane Vande Hoef
C: Paul Vander Linden
SW: Pastor Luke
BE: Josh Lucas
BW: Curt Van Kley |
| 13: SE: Marlin Roelfs
C: Pastor Luke
SW: Josh Lucas
BE: Cal Runia
BW: Bob Tiedeman | 27: SE: Harvey Van Ruler
C: Larry Verdoorn
SW: Lawrence Wiersma
BE: Pastor Luke
BW: Josh 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

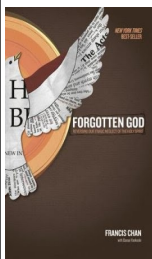


Faith Bible Study, who meets the third Monday of most months, will meet on **Monday, January 21 at 9:00 am** in the Library. Jeannette Juffer will serve as the hostess. Due to the change in schedule of our December meeting, we will be watching the DVD about Angels during our Bible Study this month.

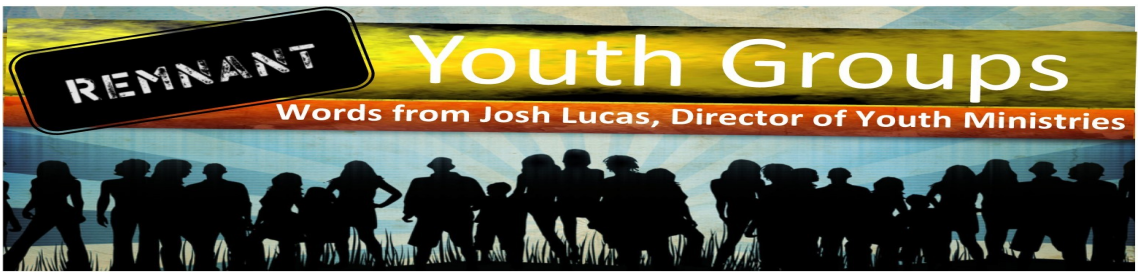
Patience Bible Study, Please watch the bulletin for updated information for the month of January.

Monday Evening Women's Bible Study will begin a new study in late January. Please keep checking the bulletin for updates on that.

Sunday Morning Women's Sunday School Class, will meet on the north side of the west end of the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings at 10:10 am.



The Men's Bible Study, who meets on the south side of the west end of the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings at 10:10 am, are doing a video study by Francis Chan entitled, *Forgotten God*. This video series will help remind us of the true source of the church's power—the Holy Spirit. Chan contends that we've ignored the Spirit for far too long, and that without Him, we operate in our own strength, only accomplishing human-sized results. This video offers a compelling invitation to understand, embrace, and follow the Holy Spirit's direction in our lives. Hope to see you there!



Hello First Reformed Church,

It's your Devil Crushing Ninja Trainer (Youth Director for short) here to give you all a super awesome informative and intelligent newsletter! First, off MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope that your Christmas and New Year is going to be an amazing one! I just think it is so crazy that this is already our second Christmas here at First Reformed Church! We have truly been blessed while being here! So, from Hannah and I we truly do thank all of you for your support since we have moved here! With Christmas comes the beginning of a new year, 2019 is quickly upon us! Which can only mean one thing: New Beginning! I know this sounds cliché, but it is true. Think of 2019 as a new start, kind of like what Jesus gives us when we go to him in repentance. When we repent of our sins and believe in him he gives us a new start!

That being said, here are the details of what is happening in youth group! We are currently in a new study right now what I like to call, "Defending the Faith." In this study, we are talking about the issues of our culture currently: Abortion, gay marriage, evolution, transgenderism, etc. We look at what the Bible has to say about the issue, and how we as Christians need to respond to the issue itself in love. We are also holding a class that teaches Apologetics. Which derives from the Greek word Apologia which means to make a defense. We get this word from 1 Peter 3:15 which says, "But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." This is very important for us to do this since our goal is to make strong disciples to go out into the world preaching the gospel and living their lives fully for Christ. That is the biggest thing that we are doing in youth group right now.

I would like to finish with a great article I read this morning while sitting in the doctor office waiting for Hannah. It was written by R.C. Sproul. The topic of the article was the controversy about the X in Christmas. Apparently, people are calling the X disrespectful and think it is a very unchristian thing to do. Now I was one of those people who thought that putting an X in Christmas was terrible until I read this article. Are you aware that the X has a special meaning in the Greek alphabet? Neither did I! The X in the Greek alphabet means, "Christos" which is the New Testament word for Christ! The X has come through Church history as a shorter way to say Christ. Now of course some people try to use it to take Christ out of the word, however the joke is on them since they are essentially saying the same thing! Therefore, when you see a Christian saying, "Merry X-Mas" don't show them hate or call them naughty words they are saying the same thing as, "Merry Christmas!" I hope you have all found this article to be a blessing to you, and that you feel the presence of God here this holiday season and all of the seasons to come! If you ever need a hug this big ole teddy bear has got one for you!

Lots of Love,
Josh Lucas

Jokes with Josh:

Q- Where do crayons go on vacation?

A -- Color-ado!



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. If the Cancellation is on Sunday, all services and activities will also be cancelled for the day.

Education Dates To Remember:

- **January 2: No Classes or Remnant** due to Christmas Break
- **January 6:** Sunday School resumes for 2019
- **January 9:** Wednesday Bible Class and Remnant resume for 2019

College Addresses

Since we have had a few requests for our College Students' Addresses, we thought we would publish them. Being away at college can be a fun time. However, it can be a time filled with uncertainty and loneliness. If you get a chance, go ahead and drop a note in the mail to these students. You never know, it just may be exactly what they needed at that very moment. Parents, if you do not see your child's address listed here please let the church office know so it can also be published next month.

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

Jena Van Marel
8181 Fannin Street
Apt. 2531
Houston, TX 77054

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

Kalie DeBoer
815 8th Street
Sibley, IA 51249

Britta Harberts
Mathews Hall #270
SDSU
Brookings, SD 57007

Kailey Bruxvoort
416 N Pine Street
Burgess #114
Vermillion, SD 57069

Collin Van Diepen
1306 11th Ave. SW
Watertown, SD 57201

Nick Buysman
MSC 331
3900 Bethel Drive
Saint Paul, MN 55112

Garrett Saylor
516 Arizona Ave NE
Orange City, IA 51041

MaKayla Tangeman
Hagemann Hall
2800 Hudson Road
Room #439
Cedar Falls, IA 50613-6702

Lars Ackerman
519 8th St.
Sibley, IA 51249

Jaden Abels
University of Sioux Falls
1101 W 22nd Street
Box 452
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Andrea Meyer
1249 Eaton Lawther
Ames IA 50012-1064

Hunter DeJong
2026 Hawthorne Drive
Fredrickson Court Apt 7223
Ames, IA 50011

Paige Hurlburt
702 E Cherry Street
Beede #328
Vermillion, SD 57069

Troy Soat
1101 W. 22nd Street
USF Box 451
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Colby Wagenaar
1230 1st Street
Brookings, SD 57006

If your student will have a different address for the 2018-2019 school year please let the office know so we can update our information. Thanks so much!!



52 Verses

52 Weeks

The Reward is Eternal!

Memorizing is messy and hard. Sometimes **you feel like you just can't!** It can be frustrating and sometimes you forget what you worked on. I am telling you this, not to talk you out of it (warm smile), but so when the difficulty hits your real everyday life, you won't be surprised. Knowing God's Word in a lasting way requires **discipline**, lots of it! We grow cold and hard without Him. The end of memorizing is always and only Jesus, the full joy of His presence. The Bible is a God-breathed word. It is alive, and we cannot live without it. Our souls are insatiably hungry, our throats parched with thirst. It is living bread we are longing to eat. It is living water we are longing to drink. It's not about knowledge. It's not about a check list. It's not about who can do the most. It is about Jesus. It is always *always* about Jesus.

January 6: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." — Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

January 13: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." — Proverbs 3:5 (NIV)

January 20: "Pray without ceasing." — 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV)

January 27: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" — 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

PRAYER LIST

BE A
Prayer
WARRIOR

PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

1. Nathan DeJong
2. Tracy Den Beste
3. Gary and Sandy De Vries
4. Stan and Abby De Zeeuw; Keegan, Aiden, Joselyn, Addison
5. Pray for our College Students
6. Pray for our Church
7. Glenn Doorenbos
8. Merlin and Karen Doorenbos
9. Paul Doorenbos
10. Cory and Amy Dykstra; Cody, Wyatt, Cole
11. LaVon Dykstra
12. Pray for our College Students
13. Pray for our Church
14. Mark and Tanya Dykstra; Tanner, Makya
15. Ron and Nancy Dykstra
16. Scott and Marlys Dykstra
17. Trudy Dykstra
18. Leona Eben
19. Pray for our College Students
20. Pray for our Church
21. Harold and Luella Eggink
22. Jon and Amy Elser; Mariah, Maverick
23. Anita Ernst
24. Harold and Mim Ernst
25. Paul Feldkamp; Emily, Hudson, Tyler, Tesfanesh
26. Pray for our College Students
27. Pray for our Church
28. Henry and Barb Fisher
29. Jacob and Sami Fox; Norah, Holden
30. Michelle Fox
31. Russell Gaalswyk; Alexis

College Students:

Paige Hurlburt

Kaitlyn Bechler

Kalie De Boer

Keyana Gust

Jaden Abels

Madison Norman

Nick Buysman

Hunter DeJong

Hunter Rockman

Ryan Van Marel

Lars Ackerman

Meggan Block

Peyton Crichton

Britta Harberts

Andrea Meyer

Garrett Sayler

Makayla Tangeman

Colby Wagenaar

Collin Van Diepen

Adam Ackerman

Kailey Bruxvoort

Lexi Ackerman

Sarah Honken

Jena Van Marel

Troy Soat

Ignacio Romero

Devan Vander Veen

Owen Wiese

Hannah Lucas



Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Romans 12:12



PRAYER LIST



PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Assisted Living

Ethel Jurgens
Geneva Wissink

The Nursing Homes

Tracy Den Beste
Dutch Kruger
Lois May
Harold Schram
Margaret Calsbeek
Leona Eben

Our Missionaries

Dr. Bernadeth Kelly &
Adrian Bobb
Sayuri Kist—Okazaki
Brian & Donna Renes
J.J. & Tim Ten Cley
Rowland & Jan Van Es

PRAYER JOURNAL

Lined area for writing a prayer journal.



Mothers Together

With God in the Middle

Do you ever wish you had a place where you could connect with others who have experienced the same parenting issues that you have? Want some time to relax, recharge and make new friends? Then Mothers Together is just the place for you.

Mothers Together meets at First Reformed Church of Sibley from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Mothers Together provides excellent child care while moms get the break they deserve. Mothers Together is a non-denominational group. We hope you will make plans to join us!!

Meetings this Month

- January 9
- January 23



So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.
1 Thessalonians 5:11(NLT)

We hope you are remembering your Secret Sister in your prayers as well as with acts of kindness. Secret Sisters is a great way to encourage someone and lift them up.

Thanks for participating Sisters!!!

From the library--



Since I seem to hang out in church quite a bit lately, occasionally I am asked for a book recommendation. Well, I enjoy books of all genres but I truly love a great western whether I read it or watch it. About a year ago I discovered our church library has many books of this nature. So this month I am recommending the author Lori Copeland and her series entitled, "Men of the Saddle." These books have been in the library for a while so some of you may have already read them. They are based around a family who's sons are coming home after the end of the Civil War and all the drama that could cause. I found them to be a book that was hard to put down! So if you have the same interest I highly recommend this series of four books. With winter here, grab a hot chocolate, a comfy chair and one of these books and you will be set for the evening.

~Jamie Hulstein

What is it?

Test your knowledge by circling the correct definition of these words associated with the Bible:

1. **MITE:** a. Tree b. Coin c. Fish
2. **MANNA:** a. Desert b. Bush c. Food
3. **BAAL:** a. Altar b. Idol c. Haystack
4. **PENTATEUCH:** a. First five books
b. Tongues of fire event c. Satanic symbol
5. **JUDAH:** a. Holy Land Kingdom
b. Betrayer of Jesus c. Branch of the Jordon River
6. **PARABLE:** a. Song b. Idea c. Story
7. **ALMS:** a. Variety of dates b. Beasts of burden
c. Money to the poor
8. **ESCHATOLOGY:** a. Study of End Times
b. Doctrine of original sin c. Study of miracles
9. **EPISTLE:** a. Weed b. Female apostle c. Letter
10. **SABBATH:** a. Day of rest b. City of refuge
c. Show of strength
11. **LOGOS:** a. Toy b. Word c. Wood
12. **TIMBREL:** a. Musical instrument b. Tableware
c. Sewing accessory

First solve the questions then find the highlighted word along with their definitions in the puzzle below.
Good Luck!!

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

January Celebrations

~~*Birthdays*~~

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 Jan Harskamp
Brenda Wassman | 10 Keith Michelson
Devan Vander Veen | 23 Rachel Van Zanten |
| 4 Ezra Anderson | 11 Kevin Michelson | 24 Jayden De Boer |
| 5 Phyllis Vander
Linden
Sandy De Vries | 12 Lynn Schram
Alexis Hulstein | 25 Kalie De Boer
Gaylord Kruger |
| 6 Ed Meendering
Damian Van Der
Sloot | 14 Jacob Fox
Mim Ernst | 26 Rhonda Riebeling
Dr. Brian Sayler
Heath De Jong |
| 7 Tracee Brouwer
Ashley Heronimus
Alan Julius | 16 Karen Ten Napel | 27 Brady Block
Donna Smidt |
| 8 Robert Groen | 17 Brayden Bruxvoort | 28 Jon Elser |
| 9 Henry Fisher
Marcia Oldenkamp | 18 Janice Groen
Matthew Runia
Tanya Dykstra
Tanner Dykstra | 29 Ken Tjaden |
| | 20 Kathy Runia | 30 Karen Honken |
| | 22 Steven
Zevenbergen | 31 Jurnea Harberts |



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

~~*Anniversaries*~~

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| 19 Joel & Kathy Verdoorn | 53 years |
| 20 Jim & Jena Ver Steeg | 7 years |
| 26 Cole & Kayla Hoekstra | 11 years |
| 26 Bubba & Sharalyn Tjaden | 34 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

Sportsmen's Devotional

Bible Study Verse

Luke 5:15 "But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience. (NKJV)



Luke 5:18 "Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him." (NKJV)

Thoughts

Have you ever noticed how important positioning is? For example: If you are going to set up a portable tree stand, it is important to be downwind from the trail over which you are hunting. You have to find the right tree that will give you stability as well as the right location. Mount the stand to the tree at just the right angle for you to shoot over your left or right shoulders. There are certainly no guarantees in hunting, so even with a good set-up, you have to be prepared to reposition yourself in the stand to get a good shot off. You don't want the "big one" standing in front of you and then discover that you didn't have the right angle. Too much movement to get into the right position to shoot will potentially ruin the hunt.

Action Point

The Christian life is not always an easy one. I know it seems as though I have to keep on repositioning myself daily for God's service. It's not that I purposely try to put myself in the wrong position. It's just that I live in an imperfect world that bumps into me every day; and if I'm not careful to keep a short account with God, I will soon find myself totally out of position for His service. We need go to God, to seek Him, every day; and not count on what we've done the previous day or week. God can use us daily; but we need to make sure our hearts are with Him today.

Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

In order to keep quiet on the stand, use fleece to keep you warm if you are in a colder environment. Fleece allows you to move freely without worrying about the clothing making a noise that might potentially scare animals away.

Trivia Time Answers!!!

1.C 2.A 3.A 4.A 5. D 6.B



Annual Congregational Meeting

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

204. The meeting was called to order by Reverend Luke Schouten
205. We began by singing the Hymn #68 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name."
206. Pastor Luke read from Luke 15:1-10 and lead us in prayer.
207. Minutes of the 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting were read by Heath De Jong for information only
208. Pastor Luke appointed the Deacons as tellers for the meeting
209. MMSC to accept the absentee ballots for the first consistory vote only. A quorum was declared at 121.
210. The Elder nominees were introduced to the Congregation by Pastor Luke. The following is the double slate of Elder nominees for 2019: Dr. Greg Kusters, Harold Ernst, Marlin Roelfs, Dennis Jurgens, Joe deBoom and Randy Van De Berg.
211. As the ballots were being counted, Lennis Harberts gave an update on Jeff and Chelsea Lampen (Missionaries we were supporting in Romania) and their new ministry venture in Illinois.
212. Josh Lucas gave an update on the youth ministry happening at FRC.
213. Harold Ernst, Marlin Roelfs and Dr. Greg Kusters were elected to the office of Elder for a 3-year term.
214. The Deacon nominees were introduced to the congregation by Pastor Luke. The following is a double state of deacon nominees for 2019: Nathan Buysman, Larry De Boer, Dan Heilman, Scott Hulstein, Mitch Kreykes and Marlin Runia.
215. While the votes were being counted, Pastor Luke gave updates on some of the various missions and outreach ministries happening at FRC.
216. Nathan Buysman, Dan Heilman and Scott Hulstein were elected to the office of Deacon for a 3-year term.
217. Discussion concerning the Summer service schedule was had. Information of attendee numbers was shared with the congregation. Idea of one service in the summer was set aside for now unless more discussion is needed in the future.
218. Charlie Kuhl presented the 2019 budget to the congregation.
219. Pastor Luke thanked all the church staff members for the work they do. He thanked all the various volunteers that offer their gifts and talents to FRC.
220. The minutes were read for approval.
221. MMSC to approve the minutes as read and to adjourn following a prayer by Pastor Luke.

Consistory Meeting

December 18, 2018

Elders Meeting, 6:00 pm

222. Pastor Luke opened with prayer.
223. MMSC to approve baptism of Holden Michael Fox son of Jacob and Sami Fox on Sunday December 23, 2018 at the Open Door Gathering.
224. The Constitutional question was asked about those needing spiritual care within FRC.
225. MMSC to approve the use of the Fireside Room for Cal Runia on December 30th from 12-5pm.
226. MMSC to approve the minutes as read.
227. MMSC to adjourn following prayer by Bill Hartzell.
228. Elders reconvened at 6:50 for purpose of electing officers.
229. Recommended to full Consistory the 2019 officers as the following: Duane Vande Hoef, Vice President; Dale Honken, Clerk; Bill Hartzell, Assistant Clerk.
230. MMSC to adjourn following prayer by Pastor Luke at 6:55

Full Consistory Meeting, 7:30 pm

231. Pastor Luke opened by reading Ephesians 4:11 and offered prayer.
232. Josh offered an update on the most recent happenings within the Youth Ministry.
233. MMSC to allow the HS Remnant to use the church on Feb 16th for a "Date Night" fundraiser.
234. Discussion and action was taken to fill out the "Consistorial Question and Answers" to submit for 2018 report
235. Treasurers Report was given.
236. Deacons business was discussed.
237. The retiring 2018 Consistory members left and the 2019 Consistory business was started.
238. Discussion was had concerning Ordination and Installation of incoming Elders and Deacons on January 6, 2019.
239. Took note of Prayer Schedules, meeting dates and times, email address and phone numbers.
240. MMSC to approve the election of consistory officers: Duane Vande Hoef, Vice President; Dale Honken, Clerk; Bill Hartzell, Assistant Clerk; Greg Tracy, General Fund Treasurer; Dan Eilman Assistant General Fund Treasurer; Chris Wynia, Chairman of the Deacons; Darren Rockman and Scott Hulstein, co-chairmen of Property Team
202. MMSC to approve the reading of the minutes.
203. MMSC to adjourn the meeting.



Brian and Donna Renes

Madagascar. What comes to mind when you read that word. Lemurs? An island off the coast of Africa? An animated movie with penguins? I have to admit that my impressions of Madagascar were not much deeper than these before I had the privilege of visiting the country recently.

Brian's work with Bible translation requires him to travel a significant part of every year; in 2017 he was gone from home for 170 days. People often ask me if I accompany him on his trips. I would love to travel with him more, but it doesn't

always work between my school schedule and the locations where he goes. But about once a year I have the joy and privilege of going along with him to a translation project or workshop. This allows us to not only spend those days together, but I get to meet the people he works with and observe first-hand exactly what he does. At the beginning of April Brian was asked to go to Madagascar to help with the Malagasy Study Bible, and I was able to accompany him. After 30 hours of traveling, we arrived in Antananarivo, Madagascar, on the Saturday night before Easter. We were pretty sure we would be too tired and jet-lagged to attend church the next day, but thankfully we agreed to attend the 11:00 service. That service was the fourth one of the morning, and not just because it was Easter morning; every Sunday there are four worship services at this particular church. People were waiting in line for over 30 minutes to get into the worship service, and for many of them there still was not a seat in the sanctuary. During the service the Scripture was read in various Malagasy dialects, 30 babies and children were baptized, and we partook of communion. It was an incredible and unforgettable way to celebrate Easter.

On Tuesday the workshop began with the twenty Malagasy individuals on the Study Bible team. All of these individuals from throughout Madagascar are either full-time pastors or professors, and they meet together as a translation team a couple of times each year. Brian helped with a major issue they had recently encountered with a number of missing study notes. He also encouraged them as they hope to print the New Testament Study Bible later this year. I got to know many of the translators and admired their determination and dedication to the translation in spite of many obstacles.

On our last day in Tana, we were taken to an animal park where, yes, we were able to see some lemurs. We thought we would just see them in their cages, but we were given a behind-the-scenes tour, where we even had the opportunity to feed them and meet them up-close!

We continue to deeply appreciate your prayers and support of the work of Bible translation. There are so many people around the world who are diligently working and sacrificing a great deal so that people can have the Bible in their heart language. Thank you for sharing in this amazing ministry!

Donna and Brian Renes





A Note from Operation Christmas Child to FRC:

This is the list where all the boxes from the Minneapolis Processing Center went to. The countries are: Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, Niger, Swaziland, South Africa, Gabon, Botswana, Lesotho, Mongolia, Chile, and Uruguay. Boxes from your church went to Botswana. We had a great year this year. Locally we collect 2793 Shoe Boxes and for the area, 10353. Just think of all the children that will be receiving a gift, many for the first time, maybe the only time in their life. BUT, most importantly, they will be hearing the Gospel. For many, this will be the first time for that also.

Thank you very much for packing "Shoe Boxes" for children all over the world!!



Christmas Program 2018

