

home. Check out their beliefs, listen to their sermons, and be aware of their ministries. Make church attendance a priority early. It's a harder habit to form later. At college, the easiest friendships aren't always the best. To become wise, you need to walk (or do life) with the wise (Proverbs 13:20). Look for others who share your commitment to the things of God and faithfully invest in them. Relational evangelism is worth pursuing, especially at college, but make sure you also nurture friendships that strengthen your faith (Proverbs 27:17). We're commanded to be salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16) — which presupposes we are salt and light. To make a difference in the world we must be different than the world. Holiness in lifestyle, combined with a gracious demeanor, provide a winsome alternative to the wasteland of hedonism and materialism that are rampant on college campuses and youth culture in general.

3. Own Your Decisions.

Assessing situations, weighing alternatives, and thinking critically are like using muscles. Flabbiness comes from disuse; strength comes through practice. The next few years are full of choices — which college (or trade) to pursue, what to study, how to pay for it, and more. It might be nice if God spoke with an audible voice at each crossroads, but that's not been my experience. We should pray (James 1:5). We should seek counsel from trustworthy people who know us (Proverbs 15:22). We should consider where we've been successful and what activities we enjoy, as these point to where, over time, we might be most useful in this world for the good of others and the glory of God.

Panicked that you'll miss God's will? God wants us to follow him more than we do. His moral will is revealed in the Bible. His sovereign will is revealed as we live it. So make the best decisions you can based on sound judgment, accept the consequences, learn from any missteps, and trust God to shower you with mercy and goodness (Psalm 23:6). With God no path is without difficulty and no path is without blessing.

It's important to know that God is always with us no matter where we go in life, guiding our footsteps along the way.

Congratulations on your graduation. Godspeed in the days ahead. Grace be with you to the end.

Philippians 1:6 - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

The Newsletter

Words from Pastor Luke

May 2017

First Reformed Church

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

The Blessing and Challenge of Graduation

Article by Alex Chediak

Choose this day whom you will serve. (Joshua 24:15)

High school graduation is a rite of passage unlike any other. You move from being treated like a child (legally) to being counted an adult, both in society and in any academic setting you might enter. Colleges aren't even allowed to discuss your grades with your parents apart from your consent. Childhood is over. Adulthood beckons. How should you respond to the blessing and challenge?

1. Own Your Faith.

If you come from a Christian home, you have benefited tremendously from a host of supportive circumstances (household rules, numerous protections, church life). Testing awaits as you enter the world. It won't be enough to ride the coat tails of your parents' faith. If you're not sure about Christianity, now is the time to settle the matter (Ecclesiastes 12:1). Christianity is a faith unlike any other because it's based on historical events that were verifiable to thousands of people in Christ's day (1 Corinthians 15:3-6, 12-14) — some of whom died for what they would have known to be false, had it been false. If you have doubts, ask away. The existence of God, the reliability of the Bible, the resurrection of Jesus, Jesus being the only way to God — there is a wealth of material which addresses these and other questions.

But do you want to base your life on Jesus Christ? You'll soon encounter new opportunities to misuse God's good gifts in ways that seem alluring — that seem to offer immediate pleasure. Will you believe the lie that God is a cosmic killjoy, out to rob you from experiencing the good things of life (Genesis 3:6)? Or will you trust that the One who made you knows best, that his rules are an expression of his love, and that his ways lead to your greatest happiness (Psalm 16:11)?

2. Own Your Relationships.

The Christian faith is lived out in community. So you'll need to find a good church. Somewhere you can worship, learn, grow, and serve. Somewhere you can form friendships and where you can be a friend. Look at a few church websites before you leave

Continued on the Back Page

News From Jeff and Chelsea Lampen

Dear Friends and Encouragers,

We pray you are all well! We have had a both restful and enriching last few winter months. Lupeni has had one of its coldest winters in the past twenty years, and we have found time to enjoy it! The mountains are beautiful, and Lorelei has loved walking and playing in the snow. As we now move into spring, we are experiencing the grass greening and flowers pushing up. It has been beautiful!

First, I would like to share about how life is here at home, and then to talk about some different experiences we have had away from home during these past few months. The biggest news that we are excited to share is that we learned in late January that, Lord willing, we are expecting our second child in October! We are so grateful and humbled by this gift from God. I am feeling alright, but have been nauseous throughout each day. As we move towards the second trimester, I ask you to pray with me that I will continue to feel better.

We had to say goodbye to Alina, the babysitter who has watched Lorelei for the past year. Alina and her family are moving to Germany for a few months to raise money for their daughter's wedding. Migrant work is very common among Romanians, so we were not surprised, but it did leave us feeling sad to lose someone who has cared well for our daughter. We are grateful, however, that a friend of ours put us in contact with a wonderful woman from his church. Morghit will now be watching Lorelei during the day while we are at work. She is finishing her work on her master's degree in the fall, and has experience caring for young children. Today is actually the second day Lorelei is spending time with Morghit, and she was singing with excitement before Morghit came over this morning. Please pray this excitement continues!

Our last meal with Alina and her family to say goodbye before they go to Germany Jeff continues to write the faith-based IMPACT curriculum, Credo IMPACT. Last month he met with Father Adi, who oversees the clubs in Romania, and was excited to hear that 7 out of the 9 pilot clubs that meet in Orthodox Churches are thriving, and that there is a plan to launch 5 more this summer.

I continue engaging with schools and students who are interested in our internship program. Next week, I will speak at the University of Petrosani, focusing on the importance of social work and counseling services, both in Romania and in the United States, and how the systems of counseling look in the United States. I look forward to this cross-cultural experience, expanding the horizons of the social work students of our Jiu Valley.

Jeff has traveled quite often these past three months. In January he went with two other New Horizons colleagues to a Young Life conference in Barcelona, Spain for a week. It was a time of learning and refreshment that pushed the members to grapple with the content of the Gospel. Jeff found this to be very relevant to our work with New Horizons. During this conference, Jeff was able to talk with our New Horizons director, Dana, and consider how to bring together the strong evangelistic impulses of Young Life and the non-formal education of New Horizons in order to create a rich experience of discipleship that can be used in other European contexts as well. Jeff is grateful to God for Young Life, and for their ability to see the benefits of service-learning and non-formal education as a way to point youth to Kingdom living and following Christ.

In February Jeff went to Bosnia with another New Horizons coworker, Tibi, to lead a second training with World Vision. The goal was to train leaders of a pilot group to equip young people with the skills and knowledge they need to contribute to their communities and obtain meaningful employment. This training flows out of the IMPACT International programs. For Jeff, it was amazing to witness people from different ethnic groups come together after knowing the history of

Bible Wordsearch Teachings of Jesus

Wordsearch 260

Matt. 12:41-50

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| EARTH | CONDEMN |
| ENDS | DISCIPLES |
| FINAL | FATHER |
| FINDS | GREATER |
| HOUSE | JUDGMENT |
| JESUS | MOTHER |
| JONAH | NINEVEH |
| LISTEN | OUTSIDE |
| ORDER | PLACES |
| QUEEN | POINTING |
| REST | REPENTED |
| RISE | REPLIED |
| SEVEN | RETURN |
| SISTER | SEEKING |
| SPEAK | SOLOMON |
| STOOD | SPIRITS |
| SWEPT | STANDING |
| TAKES | WANTING |

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

CONSISTORY MINUTES

April 17, 2017

6:00 pm

Elder's Meeting 6:00 pm

8 present A Quorum

96. Pastor Luke opened the meeting by reading scripture and offering prayer.

97. Lexi Ackerman appeared before the Elders and requested Baptism for herself. She also Professed her Faith In Christ.

98. MMSC to honor her request for baptism and accept her Profession of Faith in Christ.

99. The Constitutional Question was asked of members needing spiritual care and the Elders reported on various concerns of members in their districts.

100. 160 were served Communion on Maundy Thursday.

101. MMCS to accept these minutes.

102. MMSC to adjourn following closing prayer by Stan Gaalswyk.

Full Consistory Meeting 7:00 pm

15 present A Quorum

103. Pastor Luke opened the meeting by reading Peter 3:17-18 and offering prayer.

104. Ministry Team Reports:

Outreach: Cal Runia reported that the Outreach team and First Reformed Church sill provide inflatables for Good Ole' Summertime days in June.

Property Team: Daren Rockman reported on "hot water on demand water heaters." Replacement of water heaters was left to the Deacons discretion. He also reported on various concrete areas that are needing work. Daren also reported on the Sanctuary Lighting and Sound Systems.

Youth Ministry: Heath De Jong reported that an individual has requested information concerning the youth Pastor position.

Worship Ministry: No Report.

Education Ministry: No report

Congregational Care Ministry: No Report

Administrative: No Report

105. MMSC to approve these minutes.

106. MMSC to adjourn following closing prayer by Charlie Kuhl.

genocide in their country 20 years ago. The friendships, cooperation, and rich sense of peace that exists today in Bosnia are wonderful gifts to experience. It was encouraging to see how these leaders are excited and motivated to lead their groups.

In March we traveled as a family to Switzerland, for a retreat with Christian Reformed missionaries from across Europe. During our time together, we focused on Eugene Peterson's book, Practicing Resurrection. We had a time of deep fellowship, learning, prayer, and worship. As a family, we were encouraged to be a part of a group walking together to discern the Lord's will in their lives. We felt strongly encouraged by missionaries who have been on the field for over thirty years, and still walk the humble path of listening to God's call and the Spirit's moving. Lorelei loved spending the week with kids who "speak her language." She knows how great a gift language is!

Prayer Requests:

- We've lived in Romania now for over a year and a half, and are beginning to already enter a time of discernment as we look to our three-year home service in the fall of 2018. We ask that you join us in prayer as we seek God's will for our future, especially given our expanding family.
- We are in the process of deciding if we should have our child in Sibiu, a city about two hours away, or in the States. Both are safe options, but there are many variables that influence the decision. Please join us in prayer as we discern the best option for our family, our work, and our new child.
- Please pray for Lorelei as she slowly transitions from being an only child to a big sister. She is very excited about it now, but that transition can be difficult. Pray that we might be wise, graceful, and loving parents to these two gifts of God.
- We are grateful to grow in relationship with Morghit and her husband, Marius. Please join us in prayer of praise for her, and that we may be encouraging and supportive employers, bringing joy into her life. We also pray for Lorelei, that she might trust and learn from Morghit.
- Pray for Alina, Flavius, Flavia, and Sergiu as they work in Germany for a few months.
- Please pray for the students who will be at the social work presentation next week, and that I will be able to communicate well and present with the leading of the Spirit.
- Pray for the new club leaders in Bosnia: that as they gather with young people and begin to brainstorm and organize, their first series of learning projects may go well and benefit their communities.
- Pray for Credo IMPACT, and the partners that come alongside the writing, translating, and creating process. Please join Jeff in prayer for his ability to focus on Credo specifically, and create something that would bring glory to God. We pray that Credo IMPACT will engage youth and challenge them to examine and place their faith and love of Jesus Christ at the center of everything they do and say.
- Pray for year-long RCA volunteers, Jason and Maggie White, who spent the past six months in Targu Mures, and are anticipating moving to Lupeni in June. They have become dear friends, and we ask that you pray they continue to be a strong encouragement to our family.

We thank you for walking with us in ministry! Please know that any time we feel discouraged, you are our encouragement. We know God has called us into relationship with one another, and we are grateful for your love, encouragement, guidance, and support. We often come to Christ in prayers of gratitude for you.

Grace and Peace in our Lord Jesus Christ,
Jeff, Chelsea, Lorelei, and the New Baby Lampen

Greeters for May, 9 am

- May 7

West-Lawrence & Ruth Ann Wiersma
Middle-Ryan Wiersma & Paul Feldkamp
East-Kody and Rachel Wills/family
- 21

West-Derek and Megan Ackerman
Middle-Mitchel and Angie Ackerman/family
East-Brian and Chelsey Alexander/family
- 14

West-Gary and Jessa Wolter
Middle-Charles &Brenda Ackerman/family
East-Dean and Michelle Ackerman
- 29

West-Bobby and Dee Baker
Middle-John and Sharon Bartels
East-Gretchen Bartelson and Marlys Brink



Nursery for May 9:00 am

May 7 Kayla Hoekstra and Chelsea Hulstein
14: Rachel Wills and Sandy Lamfers
21: Ashley Heronimus and Diane Langstraat
28: Kim and Alex Mc Dougall

Nursery for May 11:00 am

May 7: Tami and Lindy Tracy
14: Angie Ackerman and Amber Mortenson
21: Missy Julius and Kim Van Der Sloom
28: Lynn and Alex Mulder

Library Volunteers

May 7-Jeannette Juffer
May 14-Jill Leusink
May 21-Leona Meendering

Sunday School Nursery

Sunday School is finished until the fall.



*Motherhood is more than a stage –
it's a lifelong calling from God.
With it He gives us hearts that love deeply,
hands that serve tirelessly, and vision to see
His blossoming image in the precious ones
entrusted to our care.*

FROM THE LIBRARY

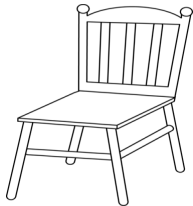
The calendar indicates it is spring, however, right now the temperatures make a person wonder. Even though the days are longer and you might be spending more time outdoors, we are sure you can still find time to read a good book. Maybe you will go camping and have extra time on your hands, keep a book handy to fill those spare moments enjoying the out of doors.

We have had a number of books donated to the library recently and want to thank the donors. We will process some of the books so keep checking the library for the new additions.



DONATIONS ACCEPTED

Are you doing spring-cleaning? Have you come across items you no longer need or use in your home? Or maybe you are splurging and replacing new furniture. Please remember the thrift store, *New Beginnings*, in downtown Sibley. Your gently used items of home décor,



kitchen utensils, furniture, anything you no longer use but is in good condition, will be welcome at the store and will be displayed in hopes of finding a new home! Larger donations of furniture will be picked up if you live in Sibley. Please call the Osceola Community Hospital-754-2574, Allyn Jacobsma-461-0737 for pickup service. Proceeds from the store benefit our local *bright Beginnings Day Care*.



INSPIRATION HILLS LADIES AUXILIARY SUMMER KICK-OFF

THIS FUN DAY WILL BE HELD ON MAY 30TH, 2016 TO KICK OFF THE SUMMER PROGRAMS! The day includes food, fun, and fellowship for people of all ages. A lively auction begins at 3:30 pm, followed by a concession-stand style supper served between 4:00pm-6:00pm. The evenings entertainment with Pam De Haanbegins at 6:30 pm. Bring your whole family for a fun-filled afternoon and evening!

GREAT CHANCE FOR FIRST TIME PARENTS TO COME TO SUMMER CAMP!
COMESSEE CAMP AND MEET THE SUMMER STAFF AT THIS EVENT!

2017 Graduates

Lars Ackerman will be graduating from Sibley-Ocheyedan High School. He will be attending Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, for Physical Education School.

Megan Block will be graduating from Sibley-Ocheyedan High School. Starting this summer, Megan will be attending Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon to start work on her general credits. In the fall of 2018, she will be transferring to Northwestern College in Orange City to finish her major in Elementary Education, minoring in special Education.

Peyton Crichton will be graduating from Sibley-Ocheyedan High School. She will be attending Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and plans going into Pre-Med.

Britta Harberts will be graduating from Sibley-Ocheyedan High School.

Andrea Meyer will be graduating from Sibley-Ocheyedan High School. After graduation, Andrea plans on attending Iowa State University in Ames and to major in Human Sciences. Andrea will also be singing in the University Choir.

Garrett Sayler will be graduating from Sibley-Ocheyedan High School. He plans on attending Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa to pursue a degree in the medical field, possibly Pediatrics. Garrett will also be playing football for the Northwestern Red Raiders.

MaKayla Tangeman will be graduating from Sibley-Ocheyedan High School. After graduation, she plans on attending University of Northern Iowa in Iowa City to major in Special Education. She hopes to be a special education teacher.

Cody Wagenaar will be graduating from Sibley-Ocheyedan High School. After graduation Cody plans on attending South Dakota State University in Brookings where he will be pursuing a degree in Agriculture

Collin Van Diepen will be graduating from Sibley-Ocheyedan High School. After graduation, Collin plans on attending Lakes Area Technical Institute in Watertown, South Dakota to pursue a degree in Ag Production.

Shannon Michelson will be graduation from Iowa Central Community College with an Applied Professional Studies Degree in Business.

Ethan Post will be graduating from Dakota State University with a degree in Computer Science. He has obtained work at EROS Data Base in Sioux Falls, South Dakota

To All of our Graduates we wish the Best of Luck in you future. May God Bless you in life's travels!



Coffee Servers May

May 7 Harold & Mim Ernst
14 Stan & Gert Gaalswyk
21 Ed & Jan Harskamp
28 Bill & LaDonn Hartzell

Coffee With the Pastor

Coffee with the Pastor will be held on May 3 at 9 am. Please come join us. Hope to see you there!



For Your Information:

As school winds down and summer approaches, some activities at FRC will be taking a vacation as well.

- Children and Worship will not be meeting again until September of 2016.
- Wednesday Night Bible Class will not be meeting until September of 2016.
- Sunday School was finished April 30, 2017 and will not meet again until September 2016.

Parents Please Note:

- **Middle School Remnant** has a few activities they will be doing throughout the summer. A letter was sent home telling you of these events. Watch the bulletin for additional information.
- **High School Remnant will be meeting until the middle of May.** They have a few activities they will be doing throughout the summer. A letter was sent home telling you of these events. Watch the bulletin for additional information.

Women's Bible Studies

Faith Bible Study will meet on **Monday, May 15** at 9:00 am in the Library. Leader: Luella Eggink; Hostess: Imogene Rasmussen.

Patience Bible Study will meet on **Monday, May 15** at 4:00 pm to study Lesson 2 in our new Bible Study Book, *End Times: Practical Heavenly Mindedness*, from LifeGuide. Lois Van Diepen will be the leader and the hostess will be Jen Schram.

After Church Greeters for May

7 SE: Dr. Greg Kusters
C: Arnie Langstraat
SW: Ken Loerts
BE: Pastor Luke
BW: Ed Meendering

21 SE: Duane Vande Hoef
C: John Van Diepen
SW: Harvey Van Ruler
BE: Larry Verdoorn
BW: Pastor Luke

14 SE: Lyle Peelen
C: Pastor Luke
SW: Larry Riebeling
BE: Cal Runia
BW: Bob Tiedeman

29 SE: Lawrence Wiersma
C: Pastor Luke
SW: John Bartels
BE: Marcus De Boer
BW: Heath De Jong

May Faith In Action:

Faith in action for this month is Daily 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 DVBS a success !



Sportsmen's Devotional

Bible Study Verse: Deuteronomy 4:9

“Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.” (NIV)

Thoughts:

A couple of summers ago, my son and I went on our first Canadian fishing trip. We had been planning this trip for quite awhile with some extended family and were excited about finally getting the chance to land some northern pike.

Well, our first morning out fishing was going to prove to be difficult to top. We anchored our boat near a rock island and my son threw out his first cast. Immediately, he had a fish on and started reeling it in. It wasn't a huge fish, but at least it was a nice start to the day. He reeled it up to the surface, and we could see that it was a walleye.

As he continued to reel the fish over to the boat, a nice northern pike came up out of the deep water and nailed the walleye. The fight was on! The leisurely reel turned into an epic battle between my son and this northern. After a few minutes of fighting with it, my son was able to get the pike up to the side of the boat where we netted it and brought it in--with both the walleye and the northern on! That northern was never on the hook. He simply had bit the walleye on the side and absolutely refused to let go! The first cast of the trip accounted for a "2 fer" - one hook, two fish.

Many times our focus is on me - my salvation, my God, my Lord, and my church. The reality is that faith is bigger than my personal experiences with God. When God looks at a man within a family, he desires a "2 fer." The salvation and faith of a dad is supposed to be passed on to the next generation by him. One faith, two generations or more. (Dave M)

Action Point:

As outdoorsmen, we understand the value of passing on an outdoors legacy to our children. It's up to us to pass on the traditions and the fun of being out in the wild. We also need to recognize that it's up to us to pass on the Christian faith to our children and grandchildren. Ultimately, the Holy Spirit has to draw each person to Himself; but we have been given the privilege of teaching our children about Jesus. It's God's plan--a "2 fer."

Sportsmen's Tip of the Day:

Fish just love to eat leeches. The problem is that leeches love to attach themselves to people while they are in the water. If you get a leech attached to you, pour salt on it, and then you can pick it off.

May Birthdays

- 1 Melissa Julius

2 Brenda Ackerman
Andrea Leusink

4 Rachel Wills
Tyler Fox

5 Harold Schram

6 Dutch Kruger

7 Robert Kruger

8 Brenda Post
Tami Tracy

9 Ray Schram
Ruth Ann Wiersma

10 Charlie Ackerman
Jamie Bruxvoort
- 11 Rod Vander Veen
Rebecca Whitacre

12 Matt Julius

13 Fay Vos
Kacee Van Ruler
Kelsey Van Ruler
Chris Schouten

16 Larry Verdoorn
Josh Wagenaar

17 Katha Kruger

20 Verlyn Smidt

21 Larry De Boer

24 Teresa Hurlburt
Nate De Jong
Clayton Wagenaar

25 Imogene Rasmussen

- 26 Brysen Loerts
Lane Tangeman

27 Cody Hurlburt

29 Brooke Ten Napel
Laurie Kraayenbrink
Ethan Post
Daren Rockman
Justin Wagenaar

30 Ed Harskamp
Gladys Tiedeman
Travis Runia
Nicole Ten Napel

31 Helen Vander Veen



May Anniversaries

- 07 Marcus and Angela De Boer 46 years

10 Dave and Sandy Lamfers 37 years

14 Keith and Janelle Van Drunen 46 years

27 Dale and Karen Honken 34 years

28 Troy and Meggan Block 12 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

"My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her."
- George Washington

Willing Hands Group

Willing Hands Group #5 will be responsible for services during the month of May. Co-chairpersons are Dar and Dennis Jurgens. Deb and Greg Kusters and Shelia and Harold Van Der Sloot.



Survey Results

Awhile ago, Surveys were placed in your mailbox asking for your opinion on what to do with our Willing Hands Groups. You were asked to vote for what you thought was best for the direction of our groups. Many comments were written in, and many people voted for more than one category.

Option 1: We could start using styro-foam/plastic plates, cups and silverware. The cost for these items would be assessed to the church. All items needed to be made (cakes, bars, cookies, sandwiches, salads, etc.) that were requested would be made by the group in charge that month with the bills for these items (other than baked items) going to the funeral home for payment.

Option 2: Order cakes from the bakery, which would cut down on calling everyone (which can be a challenge to the chairperson as most people are working during the week and are busy in the evenings). This would be less clean-up for the groups (washing cake pans, containers, etc.) and easier for those in the groups who maybe don't have a lot of time to bake a cake, bars, cookies when they get home from work. The cost of the cakes would go to the family via the funeral home and would not be a cost to the church. The church group would make any additional needed items requested with the bills going to the funeral home for payment.

Option 3: Have the lunch/meal catered, which is being done at some churches. Yes, the cost of this could become quite an expense to the family but that would be at their choice. A lot of the cost depends on what the family would want to have served. This too would not be paid for by the church. The bill would be sent to the funeral home for payment. The group in charge of that month would work and serve the meal/lunch.

Option 4: Leave things as they are and be willing to assist as needed for the funerals.

Votes were tallied up and here is the breakdown:

Option 2 and Option 3 tied for the most votes. Many people selected option 1, 2, and 3. Many more people said to order cakes from the bakery and use Styrofoam plates and cups. It's hard to know what to do from here, but by a great majority people want something to change.

Coming in 3rd place was option 1 and option 4 was in the last place.

We ask for your prayers as we decide what to do next. Please be patient with the process. Thank you for participating in the survey. It is nice to get a handle on what people are thinking.

