

December 2017  
First Reformed Church  
**The Newsletter**

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

**IN THE  
SPOTLIGHT**



November 11, the Congregational Care Committee along with various Youth Group Members did lawn care for members of the church.

A great time was had by all!!  
In total 6 yards were cleaned up by 20 people in about 3 hours.  
Thank you to everyone who helped out.



**December at a Glance**

- 1:** 7:00 pm Secret Sister Reveal
- 3:** Communion Sunday
  - 10:10am Program Practice for 3 yrs.-5th grade
- 6:** 9:00 am Coffee with the Pastor
  - 6:30 pm Program practice for 3 yrs.-5th grade
- 10:** 9:00 am Combined Worship
  - 10:00 am SS for 6 grade & Up
  - 11:00 am Christmas Program
- 11:** 7:00 pm Consistory Meeting
- 13:** 9:00 am Mothers Together
- 18:** 11:00 am Faith Bible Study will meet at the Lantern
  - 11:30 am Patience Bible Study will meet at the Lantern
- 24:** Services at regular times; No Sunday School
  - **6:00pm** Christmas Eve Service
- 25:** Merry Christmas!!
- 27:** No Mothers Together
  - No Wednesday Night Activities
- 31:** Services at regular times; No Sunday School

**\*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
- 6:30-7:15 pm MS Remnant
- 7:15-8:30 pm HS Remnant

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com



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

## Words from Pastor Luke

December has arrived and we look forward to the joy of this season. I love this time of year not because of the presents, or shopping or decoration or trees. I love this time of year because of the opportunity to reflect on the significance of God's amazing and incredible love that was showered down upon us as he sent his Son to be born in a manger. To soak up the magnitude of what really happened always makes me humble because I am a sinner and yet excited about the great message that Jesus brought! There truly is freedom that came through Christ! I encourage you to reflect on your relationship with Christ and the greatest gift you have ever received.

I also want to take some time to update you on what is happening around church. We want to continue to inform you of where we are at to meet all our financial obligations through the end of the year. Currently we need to average about \$6,000 per offering to make all our commitments. Personally, I feel this is important. A couple of years ago we did not reach our financial goals and so eliminated many of the commitments we made to benevolences. Although this is the easy way to make sure we are in the "black" at the end of the year, I struggle with the promises we made as a congregation to these non-profit organizations. To me it is a matter of integrity. If we promise to give towards these other ministries, than we also need to meet that obligation. I am confident if we are faithful to God with the resources he has given us than we will find blessing in the ministry we do here through church.

I also want to encourage you to get involved in several ministry opportunities in the coming new year. We are planning on adding more life groups meeting at different times so you might be able to attend. These groups will build relationships as well as challenge you in your faith walk. It will move you towards intentional discipleship. I also want to encourage you with the Right Now Media Resources we now have available to you. This is a great way for your children, you as families, as spouses, and others to find something of interest and grow together on your own. The beauty of this resource is you can use it anytime, anywhere with whomever you choose. If you haven't signed up simply give us your e-mail. There are slips at the information table you can fill out and we will get you signed up.

Coming in January, there will be another discipleship opportunity called TRADERS. This will be a one on one, a couple with a couple or group of three or four that will spend time each month trading conversation for growing your faith. You can choose someone to do this with or you can sign up and we will put you with someone. We are looking at this course running 18 months as you get together at least once a month. Our final goal of this course will be a possible opportunity to visit Israel in 2019. Each month you will have a specific study that will create conversation, scripture and prayer. The combination of with whom you trade your life with is endless.

Finally, we are also once again looking at a couple of trips to Romania. As the high ropes course is nearly finished the next project is to build some cabins, in their words Cabana's. The goal is to build 5 by this summer so they can begin to host week long camps for kids. We are looking at two spring opportunities. The first will be in late April and the second in May. Each group would be restricted to about 9-11 people. I would encourage you to consider this amazing opportunity.

So, lots of things happening. We can only do so much to resource you but it is up to you to make it happen. Take some time to pray how God wants you to get involved and grow and then get it done. Take the steps, find the time and make it happen. God is looking forward to doing amazing things in your life. Open the door to what that might be.

Christmas blessings to you and your family!  
Love Pastor Luke and Chris





*It's Coffee Time...*  
*With the Pastor!!*  
 Come join Pastor Luke  
 (and Brenda) for coffee  
 at 9 am on December 6th.  
 We would love to see you all!

If you would like to participate in the next round of Secret Sisters, please have your slips filled out and placed in the box on the Information Center by December 3. New Secret Sister assignments will be handed out on December 10. We hope you will remember 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!!!



### Trivia Time!!!

1. What street did Judas live on?
2. What were the first spoken words in the Bible?
3. What book in the Bible mentions mowed grass?
4. How tall was the giant, Goliath?
5. What person in the Bible was a fast and furious driver?



**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!!

**November Schedule:**

- December 13 at 9:00am
- No Meeting on December 27 due to Christmas break

I bring you good tidings of great *joy*,  
 which shall be to  
*all people*. For unto you  
 is born this day  
 in the city of David a *Saviour*,  
 which is  
**Christ the Lord.**  
 — Luke 2:10 & 11 —

## Cornerstone Service Greeters for December, 9 am



**3:** West - Rich and Marcia Oldenkamp  
Middle - Marlys Pietz and Jen Schram  
East - Larry and Rhonda Riebeling

### **10:9:00 Combined Worship Service**

West - Lyle Peelen and Marlin Roelfs  
Middle - Cal and Kathy Runia  
East - Marvin and Janice Runia

**17:** West - Dr. Brian and Heidi Sayler/family  
Middle - Ted and Eileen Schutte  
East - Verlyn and Donna Smidt

**24:** West - Donna Sterler and LaVonne Prins  
Middle - Dave and Lesa Stofferan  
East - Bob and Gladys Tiedeman

### **24: Christmas Eve Service**

West - Randy Van De Berg & Ryan Wiersma  
Middle - Duane and Pam Vande Hoef  
East - Paul and Phyllis Vander Linden

**31:** West - Ken and Sharalyn Tjaden  
Middle - Brent and Chelsey Town/family  
East - Greg and Tami Tracy/family



### **9:00 am Nursery Dec.**

**3:** Brenda and Leah Ackerman  
**10:** Wilma Leusink and Andrea Leusink  
**17:** Laurel and Natalie Klaassen  
**24:** Gina and Jaden Jacobsma  
**24: Christmas Eve Service:**  
Jenna Ver Steeg and Chelsey Town  
**31:** Brenda Michelson and Linda Mehls



### **11:00 am Nursery Dec.**

**3:** Jill Leusink and Maureen Heilman  
**10: Christmas Program:**  
Kelsey Joseph and Kira Christensen  
**17:** Darcy Martinez and Lacey Julius  
**24:** Tami and Lindy Tracy  
**31:** Tiffany and Liz Wynia

## Sunday School Nursery for December

**3:** Lana Hibma and Sandy Lamfers  
**10:** Megan Loerts and Tami Tracy  
**17:** Peg Van Kley and Pam Vande Hoef

**24: No Classes**

**31: No Classes**

### **Dec. Library Volunteers**



**3:** Leanne Van Kley  
**10:** Marcia Van Ruler  
**17:** Phyllis Vander Linden  
**24:** Alfreda Verdoorn  
**31:** Kathy and Joel Verdoorn

ONE OF THE  
GREATEST GIFTS  
YOU CAN GIVE IS  
YOUR TIME

#VOLUNTEER

## Coffee Servers for December



**3:** Harold and Mim Ernst  
**10:** Stan and Gert Gaalswyk  
**17:** Ed and Jan Harskamp

**24:** Bill and LaDonn Hartzell  
**31:** Dwayne and Janice Heikes



## Children and Worship Leaders/Helpers for December

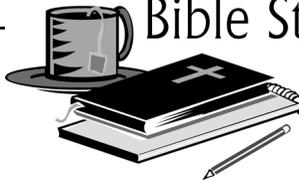
### Cornerstone Service 9:00am

**3:** Leader: Deb Kusters  
Helper: Family of Kalen Heronimus  
**10:** Leader: Annette Janssen  
Helper: Family of Hadlie Town  
**17:** Leader: Jamie Hulstein  
Helper: Family of Breanna Ross  
**24:** No Children and Worship  
**31:** No Children and Worship

### Open Door Service 11:00 am

**3:** Leader: Deb Kusters  
Helper: Family of Jaxton Loerts  
**10:** FRC Christmas Program  
**17:** Leader: Deb Kusters  
Helper: Family of Grace Hoekstra  
**24:** No Children and Worship  
**31:** No Children and Worship

## Women's Bible Study



**Faith Bible Study**, who meets the third Monday of most months, will meet on **Monday, December 18 at 11:00 am** at The Lantern for their Christmas Luncheon. Join us for a time of fellowship of reflecting on a good year and looking forward to the next.

**Patience Bible Study**, who also meets everything third Monday of most months, will meet on **Monday, December 18 at 11:30 am** at The Lantern for their Christmas Luncheon. Please save the date and plan to attend! Hope to see everyone there.

**Monday Evening Bible Study** meets weekly on **Monday evenings at 7:00pm**. Please join us as we dive into a video study of The Gospel of John led by a professor of Dallas Theological Seminary, Dr. Mark Bailey. This course will deepen your understanding of John's Gospel and strengthen your relationship with its subject — Jesus Christ. If you would like more information on this study please contact Annette Janssen.

## After Church Greeters for December



**3: SE:** Pastor Luke  
**C:** Josh Lucas  
**SW:** Ken Loerts  
**BE:** Heath De Jong  
**BW:** Ron Dykstra

**17: SE:** Ed Harskamp  
**C:** Bill Hartzell  
**SW:** Pastor Luke  
**BE:** Josh Lucas  
**BW:** Dale Honken

**Christmas Eve Service**  
**24: SE:** Josh Lucas  
**C:** Ed Meendering  
**SW:** Ken Loerts  
**BE:** Lyle Peelen  
**BW:** Pastor Luke

**10: SE:** Harold Ernst  
**C:** Pastor Luke  
**SW:** Josh Lucas  
**BE:** Henry Fisher  
**BW:** Stan Gaalswyk

**24: SE:** Dan Janssen  
**C:** Dr. Greg Kosters  
**SW:** Arnie Langstraat  
**BE:** Pastor Luke  
**BW:** Josh Lucas

**31: SE:** Pastor Luke  
**C:** Josh Lucas  
**SW:** Larry Riebeling  
**BE:** Cal Runia  
**BW:** Bob Tiedeman

## Elders in Prayer Room

**10:00 am**

**3:** Cal Runia  
**10:** Lennis Harberts  
**17:** Duane Vande Hoef  
**24:** Stan Gaalswyk  
**31:** Marcus De Boer

**12:00 pm**

**3:** Heath De Jong  
**10:** Dale Honken  
**17:** Lawrence Wiersma  
**24:** Cal Runia  
**31:** Heath De Jong



## December Faith In Action: Sharing Christmas Families



**Gifts need to be brought  
to church by:  
December 10**



## December Willing Hands Group

Willing Hands Group  
**#6** will be responsible  
for services during the  
month of **December**.

Co-chairpersons are Luella and Harold  
Eggink & Darcy and Frank Martinez.



# 2017 Advent Reading Plan



Dec 1: John 1:1-5

Dec 2: Isaiah 9:2-7

Dec 3: Isaiah 11:1-10

Dec 4: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Dec 5: Luke 1:5-10

Dec 6: Luke 1:11-17

Dec 7: Luke 1:18-25

Dec 8: Luke 1:26-38

Dec 9: Matthew 1:18-21

Dec 10: Matthew 1:22-25

Dec 11: Luke 1:39-45

Dec 12: Luke 1:46-56

Dec 13: Micah 5:2-5

Dec 14: Luke 2:1-7

Dec 15: Luke 2:8-12

Dec 16: Luke 2:13-14

Dec 17: Luke 2:15-18

Dec 18: Luke 2:19-20

Dec 19: Matthew 2:1-2

Dec 20: Matthew 2:3-6

Dec 21: Matthew 2:7-8

Dec 22: Matthew 2:9-12

Dec 23: Matthew 2:19-23

Dec 24: John 1:14

## Christmas Word Find

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

JESUS

MARY

JOSEPH

WISEMEN

MANGER

NATIVITY

BETHLEHEM

CAMEL

DONKEY

STAR

HAY

ANGEL

FAITH

HOPE

FRANKINCENSE

MYRRH

SILENT NIGHT

LORD

SAVIOR

CHRISTMAS





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.**

### **December Education Dates To Remember:**

- **December 3 & 6:** Christmas Program Practice for 3 yr olds—5th grade
- **December 10:** Christmas Program at 11:00am
- **December 24 & 31:** No Sunday School Classes. Christmas Break.
- **December 27 & January 3:** No Wednesday Night Classes. Christmas Break



# 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

**Britta Harberts**  
Mathews Hall #0259  
Brookings, SD 57007

**Garrett Sayler**  
208 8th St SW  
Unit 846  
Orange City, IA 51041

**Andrea Meyer**  
1249 Eaton Lawther  
Ames IA 50012-1064

**Jena Van Marel**  
121 N 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
LaCrosse, WI 54601

**Kailey Bruxvoort**  
416 N Pine Street  
Burgess #214  
Vermillion, SD 57069

**MaKayla Tangeman**  
2800 Hudson Road  
HAG 155  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

**Josh Wagenaar**  
1230 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Brookings, SD 57006

**Colby Wagenaar**  
Binnewies 211-A2  
Brookings, SD 57007

**Peyton Creighton**  
2001 S. Summit Ave.  
Mailbox #4  
Sioux Falls, SD 57197

**Collin Van Diepen**  
Lake Area Sweets  
Apt. #16  
312 11<sup>th</sup> Street NE.  
Watertown, SD 57201

**Lars Ackerman**  
519 8th St.  
Sibley, IA 51249

# DECEMBER PRAYER LIST

BE A  
Prayer  
WARRIOR

## Pray For God's People

- 1: Helen Vander Veen
- 2: Pray for our College Students
- 3: Pray for our Church
- 4: Rod and Tami Vander Veen; Devan
- 5: Ger and Barb Van Diepen
- 6: John and Lois Van Diepen
- 7: Keith and Janelle Van Drunen
- 8: Jim and Pauline Van Engen
- 9: Pray for our College Students
- 10: Pray for our Church
- 11: Joel Van Gelder; Teddy
- 12: Barb Van Hattem
- 13: Curt and Peg Van Kley
- 14: Steve and Leanne Van Kley
- 15: Justin and Angie Van Tilburg; Jackson, Cole
- 16: Pray for our College Students
- 17: Pray for our Church
- 19: Dean and Amy Van Marel; Jena, Ryan
- 20: David Van Ruler; Kacee, Kelsey
- 21: Harvey and Marcia Van Ruler
- 22: Cavell and Emily Van Westen; Carson, Keegan, Kennedy
- 23: Pray for our College Students
- 24: Pray for our Church
- 25: Bryan Verdoorn
- 26: Joel and Kathy Verdoorn
- 27: Larry and Alfreda Verdoorn
- 28: Roger Verdoorn
- 29: Jim and Jena Ver Steeg; Aiden, Logan
- 30: Pray for our College Students
- 31: Pray for our Church

### College Students:

Lars Ackerman  
Meggan Block  
Peyton Chrichton  
Britta Harberts  
Andrea Meyer  
Garrett Sayler  
Makayla Tangeman  
Colby Wagenaar  
Collin Van Diepen

Adam Ackerman  
Kailey Bruxvoort  
Josh Wagenaar  
Evan Mehls  
Lexi Ackerman

Sarah Honken  
Jena Van Marel

Alecia Martinez  
Ignacio Romero  
Devan Vander Veen  
Owen Wiese  
Brooke Block  
Hannah Lucas  
Jessica Mehls

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

Romans 12:12

# DECEMBER PRAYER LIST

BE A  
*Prayer*  
WARRIOR  
John 21:36

## Pray For God's People

### Assisted Living

Jack Hurd  
Ethel Jurgens  
Geneva Wissink

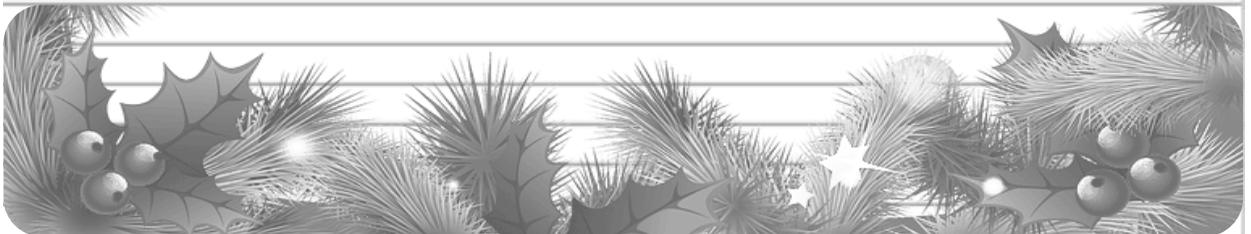
### The Nursing Homes

Larry Buysman  
Minnie De Jong  
Tracy Den Beste  
Dutch Kruger  
Marian Zevenbergen

### Our Missionaries

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

## PRAYER JOURNAL



# December Celebrations

## ~~*Birthday's*~~

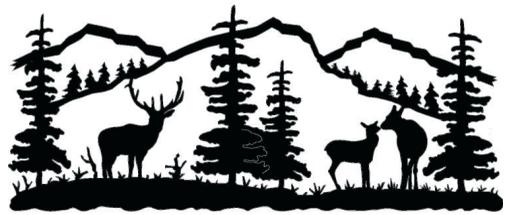
- |   |  |    |   |    |  |
|---|--|----|---|----|--|
| 1 | Jack Hurd<br>Marlys Dykstra  | 9  | Jessica Ackerman<br>Laurel Klaassen                   |    | Sarah Loerts                                       |
| 2 | Trudy Dykstra<br>Barb Fisher<br>Brent Wassman<br>Roger Lindberg<br>Michael Block Jr. | 10 | Maggie Dykstra  | 20 | JoAnn Calsbeek<br>Kay Jansen<br>Jodene Kruse       |
| 3 | Jamiey Daiker<br>Witten Julius   | 11 | Clint Henrichs<br>Zoe Ackerman                        | 21 | Mike Hustoft<br>Dave Stofferan<br>Alfreda Verdoorn |
| 4 | Beth Hulstein<br>MaKayla Tangeman  | 12 | Wendy De Jong   | 22 | Gert Gaalswyk<br>Michelle Fox                      |
| 6 | Marcia Van Ruler<br>Harold Eggink<br>Reka Post                                       | 13 | Jesse Kruger<br>Meggan Block<br>Jeremy Leusink        | 23 | Jessica Mehls                                      |
| 8 | Amelia Hoekstra  | 15 | Marlys Pietz<br>Richard Kruger<br>Ella Bruxvoort      | 24 | Glenn Doorenbos                                    |
|   |  | 17 | Merlin Doorenbos<br>Chrissy Ackerman<br>Brynna Loerts | 30 | Natalie Leusink                                    |
|   |  | 19 | Curt Van Kley   | 31 | Deb Hulstein                                       |

## ~~*Anniversaries*~~

- 18 Rod and Beth Hulstein-45 years
- 18 Mike and Andrea Block-25 years
- 19 Elesson and Kelsey Joseph 2 year
- 22 Dean and Michelle Ackerman-33 years
- 24 Jay and Karen Ten Napel-29 years
- 28 John and Faye Vos-53 years



# Sportsmen's Devotional



## Bible Study Verses

\*1 Corinthians 2:5, 14

That your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. (NKJV)

\*1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (NKJV)

## Thoughts

His wisdom far exceeds that of man. He created us, the Earth, and all that is in it. What more do we need to know? It's really quite simple. Each day that I am working or hunting in the field, I am inspired by God's power when I look at His beautiful creation--wildlife, mountains, streams, and clouds. I choose to trust in the knowledge and wisdom of our Creator and to receive the things of the Spirit of God. (Jimmy S)

## Action Point

Romans 10:17 reminds each of us, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God," (NKJV). Get into God's Word now, not later.

One of the best uses of my smart phone is the listening to a dramatized version of the Bible. Try Bible.is. Pray that God will allow you to receive faith in Him at all times, good or bad, and He will bless you with the things of the Holy Spirit.

## Sportsman's Tip of the Day

To become more "woods wise," learn to identify different animal tracks. There are several good field guides to aid you. You'll be surprised how much you were missing before learning how to do this!

## MILESTONES WORTH CELEBRATING!



**Congratulations to Geneva Wissink** who celebrated her 95th birthday on November 27.



**Congratulations to David and JoAnn Calsbeek** who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on November 24.



If you would like to have your "Milestone" published in our Newsletter please let the office know. Thanks!



The Lantern Ministries began as a Christ-centered non-profit this past June when we took over The Lantern Coffeehouse & Roastery as managers. Although the coffee shop helps support the ministry, it doesn't make enough to sustain it. We know as God grows the ministry, He will provide donors and volunteers to come alongside to help care for His people and spread the Gospel.

The Lantern's mission is to be a Light to our neighborhoods and communities by providing a safe place where everyone is welcome. We know there are times when people won't enter the doors of a church because they feel intimidated, ashamed, or hurt, but they may enter our doors, and when they do, we want them to see and experience God's abundant love.

Part of how we do this is just intentionally pouring into every guest. We also try to practice "radical hospitality;" "radical" meaning "drastically different from ordinary practice, outside the norm." To us this means exceeding expectations, going the second mile, and welcoming strangers to the max. Some of the ways we have done this range from bringing construction workers cold drinks on a hot day to making and organizing meals and gift cards for a foster family opening their door to children with extremely difficult behaviors. Other examples of ways we have been able to come alongside people have been to bring a meal and financial help to a family struggling with medical bills and praying over an overwhelmed mom and grieving widow. Many of you have attended our monthly pay-as-you-can meal, The Gathering, which brings people together in our community to make connections they may not otherwise have the opportunity to make. People can pay nothing if it is a difficult time or pay-it-forward, but the emphasis is on being welcoming and inviting, loving, and full of grace.

We have had events and speakers such as worship bands, JJ Ten Clay, the RCA missionary from Italy, and most recently, an event to address the need to care for orphans. We have also assumed the role of Osceola Love Bank, giving Sibley Super Food gift cards, praying with, and forming relationships with individuals and families needing food or support during difficult times.

One of the things we are most excited about is creating a youth center in the back third of the building. We have recently cleared things out and are ready to begin painting and moving in game tables and items to make the space fun and attractive to our area youth. This will be a great, safe space for kids to come hang out while being supervised by volunteers who can mentor and disciple them while playing and having fun.

To make these things possible and start on the youth center, we need our churches to come alongside to help support this ministry. Ways you can do this are:

- 1- Pray, pray, pray: Your prayers for our door to be open and inviting to all those who are celebrating or hurting, young or older
- 2-Buy Lantern coffee for your home, church, or business
- 3-Make a financial contribution, which is tax-deductible
- 4-Volunteer your time, material, and/or skills in the youth center - we could use plumbers, builders, decorators, and those who enjoy youth

Thank you for all the ways you already support this ministry. Just as a lantern keeps a light shining, signals safety, and draws people in, we are so excited to see how God will continue to use The Lantern Ministries to draw people closer to Christ, the Light of the World. We think of how at our Christmas Eve service one candle lights another until the entire church is illuminated, and we pray this will be the same effect this ministry will have in our community and beyond.

### Trivia Time Answers!!!

- 1: Straight Street (Acts 9:11) 2. "Let there be light." (Genesis 1:3) 3. Psalms (Psalms 72:6)
4. Nine feet nine inches (1 Samuel 17:4) 5: Jehu (2 Kings 9:20)

## Sharing Christmas Families



**Gifts need to be brought to church by December 10**

Our Church has adopted 4 larger families for the Sharing Christmas Program sponsored by Upper Des Moines. We are asking FRC members to help make Christmas special for a family that is less fortunate. All you need to do is check out the list of “needs” the families have submitted on the north wall of the Fellowship Hall. If there is something on the list that you can furnish for a needy family, place a check mark on the line next to it (that way we do not buy duplicates). Bring your WRAPPED purchases to church and place it in the box designated for that family. Thank you in advance for your help. Let’s help make a special Christmas for others!

**#16 Family of 6-** Boy age 17 wears size 36/36 pants and xl shirts and would like Cyclone stuff. Boy age 13 wears size 14/16 pants and xl shirts and would like Cyclone or Green Bay Packers items. Girl age 11 wears size 14/16 and would like Barbies or an Emoji pillow and blanket. Girl age 9 wears size 14/16 and likes Emojis, unicorns and Sponge Bob.

**#17 Family of 6.** Boy age 7 wears size 7 clothes and would like clothes and legos. Girl age 5 wears size 5t and would like clothes and she likes Calico Critters and Barbies. Boy age 3 wears size 3t and would like clothes, farm animals or he likes heavy equipment toys. Boy age 2 wears size 2t and would like clothes, trucks and books. Mom and Dad would like a Walmart card or gas card.

**#19 Family of 5-** Girl age 8 wears size 7/8 and would like clothes, Barbies and leggings. Boy age 6 wears size 7 and would like clothes and anything dinosaur. Boy age 1 wears size 2t and would like cars or a shape box.

**#20 Family of 5.** Boy age 6 wears size 7/8 and would like clothes, educational toys and a 1<sup>st</sup> grade learning book. Boy age 4 wears size 5t and would like clothes, books, and farm toys. Girl age 4 wears size 5t and would like clothes, books and likes Barbies.

## From the library--

A number of new books have been added to the library—in the nonfiction section are the following: AS LONG AS I LIVE (Thoughts on Growing Older) by Jacob Eppinga; ANGELS by Dr, David Jeremiah; THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S WILL by Charles Swindoll and AN HOUR BEFORE DAYLIGHT (Memories of a Rural Boyhood) by former U.S. President, Jimmy Carter.

We try to buy “large print” books whenever possible but they are difficult to obtain. This time, however, six were found: ECHO OF DANGER, Marta Perry; LOVE HELD CAPTIVE and AN UNCOMMON PROTECTOR ((A Lone Star Hero’s Love Story #1 and #2) by Shelley Shepard Gray; BECAUSE YOU’RE MINE by Colleen Coble and there is another book by Beverly Lewis, THE PROVING; so be watching for the Large Print books to appear in the library.

Then there are those of you who enjoy action and we have a number of those to keep you in suspense: CHASING SECRETS, #4 of “Elite Guardians” by Lynette Eason; DANGEROUS ILLUSIONS is the start of a new series “Code of Honor” by Irene Hannon; Nancy Mehl wrote DARK DECEPTION for the “Defenders of Justice” series; CRISIS SHOT is the first book in “Line of Duty” by Janice Cantore. Last is Dani Pettrey’s BLIND SPOT, book #3 in the “Chesapeake Valor” series and from the last sentence in the final chapter it sounds like there will be at least one more book!!

The last book is a Western TOO FAR DOWN, number 3 in the “Cimarron Legacy” trilogy by Mary Connealy.



# Meet Our

## *JJ and Tim TenClay*



# Missionaries

Dear Friends,

In September our family returned to Palermo (Sicily), Italy after our first home assignment in the United States and Canada. We would first like to thank all of the churches and individuals who hosted us during our home assignment; it was an honor and a privilege to spend time with you. Secondly, we are sorry we were not able to connect face to face with each and every one of our supporters and supporting churches. The twelve weeks we had in the United States flew by quickly! Please know, however, that your support of work here in Italy is greatly appreciated.

Since our return to Palermo we have been working hard to re-enter into all aspects of our Italian life, and pick up our work here from where we left it. We would covet your prayers for all four of us during this time of readjustment.

In September Tim and I both participated in an international ecumenical conference entitled “Living and Witnessing the Border: An International Conference on Migration, Borders and Reception” hosted by Mediterranean Hope (an organization affiliated with the Waldensian Church in Italy). The conference was split into two parts: the first three days were hosted in Palermo and the last two days on the island of Lampedusa. Tim and I (JJ) both worked for the conference in Palermo as staff of Mediterranean Hope, and I led a bilingual workshop (Italian and English) on civil society, human rights and advocacy. In attendance were representatives from several European countries and the United States (including Kate Kooyman and Peter Vander Meulen, from the Christian Reformed Church in North America). I then traveled to Lampedusa to participate in the October 3 ecumenical commemoration ceremony. The ceremony has been, for the past four years, a ceremony commemorating the 368 migrants who died off the coast of Lampedusa on October 3, 2013, as well as a yearly call to continue to protect the lives and rights of migrants worldwide. While the Waldensian Church in Italy has provided services to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers for decades, this October 3 tragedy gave birth to the organization Mediterranean Hope, including the Humanitarian Corridors Project.

The day after the commemoration ceremony, I joined the other international guests for a tour of the island of Lampedusa. This is my second trip to the island, a picturesque Mediterranean tourist designation, which has been impacted significantly by the ongoing Mediterranean Sea migration crisis. On one of the stairways near the sea, there are the simple words “we choose life” written in several languages. And, indeed, the general response of the inhabitants of Lampedusa, as well as the work of Mediterranean Hope, is to save the lives of migrants who try to make the passage from many countries in the Middle East and Africa, to Northern Africa, where they hope to then survive the voyage across the Mediterranean Sea to Italy. In fact, on the fateful night of October 3, 2013, many locals (local fisherman as well as those with private yachts and sailboats), were involved in the rescue (and the recovery, for those who did not survive) of migrants, and many of them developed long lasting relationships with the survivors as well as with family members of the deceased. Yet, in the midst of this period in which we remember those who have died and cherish those who survived, we also celebrate, because by the end of October 2017, the Mediterranean Hope Humanitarian Corridors Project will have reached its goal of providing 1,000 humanitarian visas to refugees (mostly from Syria) to enter Italy safely and securely. It has been an honor to participate in this program at a local level, as we have housed up to 14 Syrian refugees through this program here at the Waldensian Diaconal Center-La Noce here in Palermo. We thank God for the opportunity to welcome, in the name of Jesus, these 1,000 refugees, and we pray for continued guidance on how we can continue this project now that the original agreement with the Italian government for 1,000 humanitarian visas has been met.

We also continue to work with Pellegrino della Terra (PdT), an organization that primarily focuses on assisting women (mostly from Nigeria) who are victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Tim is currently the president of PdT, and I work at the help desk, where we provide social, psychological, legal, language and spiritual support to migrants in need. I often work as an interpreter, both in the office for my Italian colleagues, and with the local police when they (or English-speaking migrants) need assistance communicating with one another. I have the privilege of sitting with these women and often am trusted with the deepest, darkest details of their harrowing journeys from Africa to Italy. Friends, I am here to tell you that we must pay more attention to what is happening to women worldwide, and we must pay more attention to what is unfolding in Africa and the Middle East (especially in Libya). We also must continue to pray for women (and girls) who are victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, as well as for those worldwide who are currently in migration. Tim also continues to serve as minister for three Waldensian/Methodist churches in Palermo, Marsala and Trapani, two of which have large African populations and are part of a program in the Waldensian Church called “Being Church Together”. For more information on the “Being Church Together” program, please see our previous Dear Friends letters.

Thank you for taking the time to read this Dear Friend letter, and please feel free to share it with your friends, families, and communities.

Blessings,

JJ, Tim, Sophia and Petra TenClay



An exhibit of clothing that arrived in the boats/rubber dinghies along with migrants who have reached Lampedusa.



One of the stairways near the sea, where words “we choose life” are written in several languages.



A design created by our colleague, Francesco Piobbichi, entitled “1,000”.

### About JJ and Tim’s ministry

*Jennifer works in the region of Palermo, Italy, as a social action worker, developing partnerships with medical, mental health/substance abuse, governmental, and social service entities as well as ministries focused on meeting the physical, spiritual, and socioeconomic needs of the over 500,000 migrants in the area, most of whom are from Africa and the Middle East. Tim hosts visiting RCA groups and individuals, introducing and connecting them with Waldensian church members and leaders. He also interprets the Waldensian-related refugee resource ministries, Being Church Together, Pelligrino della Terra and Humanitarian Corridors*

You can speak with spiritual eloquence, pray in public, and maintain a holy appearance... but it is your behavior that will reveal your true character.

- Steve Maraboli

[www.stevemaraboli.com](http://www.stevemaraboli.com)



## Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 12, 2017

193. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Luke Schouten, Pastor of First Reformed Church.
194. We began by singing the Hymn #64, "For The Beauty of The Earth."
195. Pastor Luke read from Colossians 1:9-13.
196. Minutes of the 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting were read by Stan Gaalswyk for information only.
197. Pastor Luke Appointed the Deacons as tellers for the meeting.
198. A Quorum was declared of 149. MMSC to use 4 absentee ballots for first voting round also.
199. The Elder nominees were introduced to the Congregation by Pastor Luke. The following is the double slate of Elder nominees for 2018: Nathan Buysman, Bill Hartzell, Dan Janssen and Dick Oldenkamp.
200. As the ballots were being counted, Dale Honken reported on the Worship Committee's goals and activities in 2017.
201. Lennis Harberts then gave a report on the Christian Education Ministry. Diane Langstraat and Deb Kusters were asked to share a report on teachers for Christian Education.
202. Bill Hartzell and Dick Oldenkamp were elected to the office of Elder for a 3-year term.
203. The Deacon nominees were introduced to the congregation by Pastor Luke. The following is a double slate of deacon nominees for 2018: Cory Dykstra, Mitch Kreykes, Verlyn Smidt. Greg Tracy and Justin Van Tilburg.
204. While the votes were being counted, Pastor Luke reported on goals of the Discipleship Leadership Community updates. He also explained the new funeral/lunch serving guidelines adopted by the Consistory.
205. Daren Rockman reported on various projects completed on the church property and progress on lighting for the church sanctuary.
206. Justin Van Tilburg and Greg Tracy were elected to the office of Deacon for a 3-year term.
207. Josh Lucas shared with the members various projects and future activities of the youth groups. He also reported on the studies being presented at the youth meetings.
208. Mike Anderson introduced "Rightnow" media to the congregation and gave an explanation for how to sign-up for this opportunity.
209. Kevin Klaassen presented the 2018 budget to the Congregation.
210. Pastor Luke thanked all the various staff members and outgoing consistory members.
211. The minutes were read for approval.
212. MMSC to approve the minutes as read and to adjourn following prayer by Pastor Luke.



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

**Administrative Team Meeting  
Monday, November 13, 2017**

**6:30 pm**

- 213. Pastor Luke opened the meeting by reading Matthew 5: 1-6 and offered prayer.
- 214. Discussed the evaluation of Josh Lucas. The evaluation was perceived as very positive.
- 215. Kelly Jacobsma indicated he would like to discontinue operating the sound system. It was decided to try to obtain volunteers to operate the sound system.
- 216. Marcus De Boer closed with prayer.

**CONSISTORY MINUTES**

**November 20**

**7:00 pm**

**Elders Meeting**

**November 20, 2017, 6:00 pm**

**8 present, a quorum**

- 217. Pastor Luke opened the meeting by offering prayer.
- 218. A discussion was held on infant *baptism* versus *dedication* in the Reformed Church.
- 219. MMSC to accept Josh Lucas membership from New Life Community Church in Clovis, CA.
- 220. MMSC for baptism of Addison Claire Weg, daughter of A.J. and Jenny Weg on December 24 at the 9am service.
- 221. Elders reported on various contacts and concerns of members within their calling districts.
- 222. MMSC to approve these minutes as read.
- 223. MMSC to adjourn following closing prayer by Lawrence Wiersma.

**Consistory Meeting**

**November 20, 2017, 7:00 pm**

**17 present, a quorum**

- 224. Pastor Luke opened the meeting by reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 and offered prayer.
- 225. Various Ministry Team reports were given.
- 226. The Constitutional Question was asked, if there were any members needing spiritual care. Elders and Deacons reported on their calling districts.
- 227. Elders minutes were read.
- 228. MMSC to let Josh Lucas work as a camp chaplain the summer of 2018 for one week.
- 229. MMSC to allow Josh Lucas to work at a Teens Encountering Christ (TEC) weekend.
- 230. MMSC to approve reimbursement of work trip to Operation Christmas Child Facility in Minneapolis, MN as presented by Annette Janssen.
- 231. Treasurer's report was given.
- 232. Deacons business was discussed.
- 233. MMSC to approve these minutes.
- 234. MMSC to adjourn meeting following prayer.

**Leadership is practiced not so  
much in words as in attitude  
and in actions.**

Harold S. Geneen

# FRC in Action...

## Operation Christmas Child

Thanks to the generosity of the members of First Reformed Church, ninety-eight children will be able to excitedly open Shoebox Gifts from Operation Christmas Child. These children will also be blessed by receiving the saving message of Jesus Christ and his love.



### THE RECTOR DROPS IN ON THE PAGEANT REHEARSAL



## ONE NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

Unscramble the words below to find a special Christmas message.

UJSSE

13				

RAMENG

7				

BTLHEEEHM

11							

YRMA

1			

EIEERPNNK

18				12					

REDSHSPEH

2		17								

JPEOSH

6					

ASTR

3			

GAELN

9				

SRAVIO

4			16			

WNSEIME

5							

AEANHTR

8								

TVAYNITI

14									

EASBLT

10		15			

TGSFI

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		

## Spaghetti Lunch



## Newsletter Chicks

