

Blessed Is He Who Comes
HOSANNA!
In The Name of the Lord!!

March 2018
First Reformed Church
The Newsletter

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

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT
BIBLE CLASS**

**1ST
GRADE**



**2ND
GRADE**



**I AM
A CHILD
OF THE
ONE
TRUE
KING**

**3RD
GRADE**



More Classes On Back...

March at a Glance

- 4: 1:30 pm Easter Cantata Practice
- 7: 9:00 am Coffee with the Pastor
- 5:00 pm-7:00pm HS Remnant Soup and Pie Supper
- No Wed. Night Bible Classes for 1st-5th Grades
- No Middle School Remnant
- 11: 1:30 pm Easter Cantata Practice
- 14: 6:30 am Men's Lenten Breakfast at First Presbyterian Church
- 9:00 am Mothers Together
- 2:00 pm Nursing Home Services
- 17: 9:00 am Women's Lenten Breakfast
- 18: 1:30 pm Easter Cantata Practice
- 19: 9:00 am Faith Bible Study
- 4:00 pm Patience Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Elder / Deacon Meetings
- 7:00 pm Full Consistory
- 24: 8:00 am Passion Play Setup at SOHS
- 25: 2-4:00 pm Passion Play Practice
- 5:00 pm Easter Cantata Practice
- 26-28: Passion Play Practice (see inside)
- 28: 6:30 am Men's Lenten Breakfast at the Christian Reformed Church
- 9:00 am Mothers Together
- 29: 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service
- 30: 5,7,9:00 pm Passion Play at SOHS

***Sunday Mornings:**

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

***Monday Evenings:**

- 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

***Tuesday mornings:**

- 8:30 am Chickadee Quilters

***Wednesday Evening Bible**

Classes and Youth Groups:

- 6:30-7:15 pm Bible Classes Gr.1-5
- 6:30-7:15 pm MS Remnant
- 7:15-8:30 pm HS Remnant

CONTACT INFORMATION:

712-754-2783

sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com



View our Website at: sibleyfrc.org

Words from Pastor Luke

Last night I found great encouragement in our consistory meeting. Normally we try to get through all the “business” of the church, pray and go home. But last night was different. We had conversation on the passion and love this group of individuals has for this church. There is a longing and desire for spiritual growth, spiritual awakening and proclaiming the Word of God. There is concern for those broken and hurting and how we can be the church to help them in time of pain and brokenness. There is a heart for those in our community who don’t know Jesus. I think it was a conversation God loved to hear.

More importantly we recognized that we needed to humble ourselves and go to God in prayer. The prayers of your consistory were powerful, passionate. With sincerity in their hearts words were expressed that would bring tears because of such a longing for people to know Jesus more and healing to take place. For over 30 minutes we prayed for you, this church, empowerment through the Holy Spirit and wisdom to be effective in ministry. We also prayed that God would bring vision to who we are.

Our desire is for revival and to see God working through this congregation. As a consistory, we are committed to not only to continue to pray for awakening but also for wisdom. I want to encourage you to join us in a commitment to pray for this church and for our people. Pray that we can become a church who is reaching out to the broken-hearted, passionately living for the Lord 24/7, worshipping in a manner that is truly glorifying God and boldly sharing Jesus with those around us. For me there is excitement in what God will do with each of you and this church if we will fully commit to humble ourselves and faithfully seek God through prayer.

This morning I read this passage from Psalm 108:1-5

“My heart, O God, is steadfast; I will sing and make music with all my soul.
Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn. I will praise you, LORD, among the nations;
I will sing of you among the peoples. For great is your love, higher than the heavens;
your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
let your glory be over all the earth.

One other piece of encouragement as well as a reminder. Last year towards the end of the year we tried to inform you of where we were financially to meet our 2017 budget. You were incredibly faithful and I cannot thank you enough for your generous giving. As we now enter into this new year I want to remind you that each month we need about \$32,000 to stay on budget. Last month we collected approximately \$24,000.

I want to remind you that two years ago we had a youth salary in our budget and never had to pay it out. Last year we only paid out a quarter of what was budgeted. As we enter into 2018 we celebrate that we have a youth pastor as well as looking to update our sanctuary lighting, but we also need to make sure that we can financially support the commitment we made to the entire 2018 budget. If we are faithful in our giving we will see blessing in the ministry God has called us to as a church.

Loving you as a body of believers!

Pastor Luke



*It's Coffee Time...
With the Pastor!!*

Come join Pastor Luke
(and Brenda) for coffee
at 9 am on March 7th.

We would love to see you all!

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



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!!!



**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!!

January Schedule:

- March 14 at 9:00 am
- March 28 at 9:00 am

Trivia Time!!!

1. *Sarah was how old when Isaac was born?*

A. 95 B. 100 C. 80 D. 90

2. *What city was Abram originally from?*

A. Haran B. Unknown C. Ur D. Bethlehem E. Babylon

3. *Leviticus chapter 1 gives us instructions on what offering?*

A. Burnt Offering B. Guilt Offering C. Cereal Offering D. Sin Offering

4. *Which church in Asia minor did Jesus say was "lukewarm"?*

A. Laodicea B. Smyrna C. Philadelphia D. Delphini

Cornerstone Service Greeters for March, 9 am



4: West-Brian and Chelsey Alexander/family
Middle-Brian and Elia Altoff/family
East-Bobby and Dee Baker

11: West-John and Sharon Bartels
Middle-Gretchen Bartelson and
Marlys Brink
East-Troy and Meggan Block/family

18: West-Travis and Jill Boeke/family
Middle-Daphne Bremer/family
East-Jerrad and Tracee Brouwer/family

25: West-Jamie and Jennifer Bruxvoort/family
Middle-Jo Ann Calsbeek and
Margaret Calsbeek
East-Nate Buysman/family

29: Maundy Thursday Service (7:00pm)
West-Jamiey Daiker/family
Middle-Dale and Marilyn De Boer
East-LeRoy and Glenda De Boer



9:00 am Nursery March

4: Kathy Verdoorn and Marcia Van Ruler
11: Jennifer and Ella Bruxvoort
18: Brenda and Alyssa Wassman
25: Tanya and Makya Dykstra



11:00 am Nursery March

4: Melissa Anderson and Melissa Langstraat
11: Sarah Loerts and Megan Loerts
18: Marvella and Britta Harberts
25: Kira Christensen and Maureen Heilman



Sunday School Nursery for March

4: Peg Van Kley **18:** Luella Eggink
11: Ruth Ann Wiersma **25:** Jan Henrichs

Library Volunteers for March



4: Jan Juffer **18:** Leona Meendering
11: Jeannette Juffer **25:** LaVonne Prins



Men's Bible Study, who meets every Sunday morning in the west end of the Fellowship Hall, is continuing with their new book entitled *24 Hours That Changed the World*, by Adam Hamilton. "The aim of this book is to help you better understand the events that occurred during the last twenty-four hours of Jesus' life, see more clearly the theological significance of Christ's suffering and death, and reflect upon the meaning of these events for your life." Hope to see you there on Sunday!

Coffee Servers for March



4: Ed and Leona Meendering
11: Larry and Rhonda Riebeling

18: Marvin and Janice Runia
25: Ted and Eileen Schutte



Children and Worship Leaders/Helpers for March

Cornerstone Service 9:00am

4: Leader: Annette Janssen
Helper: Family of Brynna Loerts
11: Leader: Deb Kosters
Helper: Chris Schouten
18: Leader: Jamie Hulstein
Helper: Kathy Verdoorn
25: Leader: Annette Janssen
Helper: Family of Jaxton Loerts

Open Door Service 11:00 am

4: Leader: Annette Janssen
Helper: Family of Logan Ver Steeg
11: Leader: Deb Kosters
Helper: Family of Jude and
Lucy Anderson
18: Leader: Deb Kosters
Helper: Family of Lincoln and
Addison McDyer
25: Leader: Annette Janssen
Helper: Family of Kalen Heronimus



Faith Bible Study, who meets the third Monday of most months, will meet on **Monday, March 19 at 9:00 am** in the Library. Leader: Phyllis Vander Linden ; Hostess: Jan Harskamp. Come join us as we discuss, Lesson 8, "The Long Way Home" from the book 1&2 Peter And Jude. Scripture for the morning is 2 Peter 1:1-11. What is the way to Heaven? Is it by faith in Christ's gift of salvation? Or by our own endurance with God until the day we die? Weighty issues and with them Peter opens his second letter. We would be glad to have you join us.

Patience Bible Study, who also meets every third Monday of most months, will meet on **Monday, March 19 at 4:00 pm** in the church Library. We will be studying Lesson 7, "The Beautiful Judgement of God," from the book End Times by R. Paul Stevens. If you are interested in joining this study, please let Barb Van Diepen know and she will get you a book.

Monday Evening Bible Study meets weekly on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm. The group is studying Chase—Chasing After the Heart of God by Jennie Allen. By studying the Life and Psalms of David we will see how David spent his life chasing after God. Please join us as we too learn how to chase after God and learn what God wants from us. If you would like more information on this study please contact Annette Janssen.

After Church Greeters for March



4: SE: Josh Lucas

C: Lyle Peelen

SW: Larry Riebeling

BE: Cal Runia

BW: Pastor Luke

18: SE: John Van Diepen

C: Pastor Luke

SW: Josh Lucas

BE: Curt Van Kley

BW: Harvey Van Ruler

11: SE: Pastor Luke

C: Josh Lucas

SW: Bob Tiedeman

BE: Duane Vande Hoef

BW: Paul Vander Linden

25: SE: Larry Verdoorn

C: Lawrence Wiersma

SW: Pastor Luke

BE: Josh Lucas

BW: John Bartels



Elders in the Prayer Room for March



10:00 am

4: Lawrence Wiersma **18:** Bill Hartzell

11: Dale Honken **25:** Heath De Jong

12:00 pm

4: Lennis Harberts **18:** Dick Oldenkamp

11: Duane Vande Hoef **25:** Marcus De Boer

March Faith In Action: Nursing Home Prizes

James 2:26 tells us "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead." We don't have to move mountains to put our faith into action. Even little acts of kindness can enrich our faith and lift up others.

This month, we are encouraging everyone - children through 90 year olds - to bring at least one item for the residents of our two local nursing homes. Sibley Rehab needs items for bingo prizes: Little Debbie or other individually wrapped snacks and candy bars. Country View needs items for their general store: jewelry, small knickknacks, shaving cream, shampoo, lotion, toothpaste & brushes, hard candies, etc.



March Willing Hands Group

Willing Hands Group #3 will be responsible for services during the month of **March**.

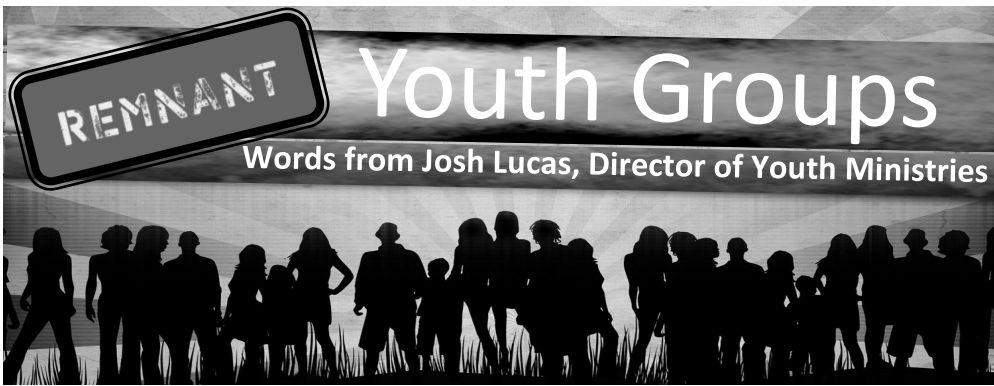
Co-chairpersons are:

Jamie and Scott

Hulstein and

Sandy and Dave

Lamfers

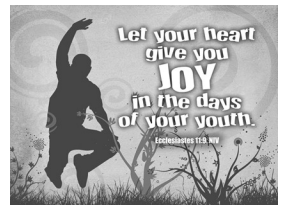


Hello First Reformed Church,

The Youth Group has kicked things into a new gear! We are excited for all the things that God has in store for us! Coming on March 7th is the High School Remnant Soup and Pie Supper! We are really looking forward to that. The Middle School Remnant is heading to Power Connection in July! On that subject, if you would like more information on Power Connection please come and see me. High School Remnant is going to Houston for a mission trip where we will be doing hurricane relief work! Finally, the wacky and fun fundraisers I said we are going to do they are coming soon! I'm so excited for this, and I hope that you are all too!

Youth Sunday was so awesome, and I hope that you thought so too! The youth group and I are hoping that you were all blessed by the worship, the message, and most of all that God was glorified. This past weekend of the 15th-18th I went to my first Iowa State Wrestling Tournament! There I cheered on and supported four of our very own Sibley-Ocheyedan high school boys. Hunter DeJong made it to the finals where he became the runner up! I was beyond blessed to see the excitement and intensity that happens at those events, but most of all I was beyond blessed to see one of my very own students do what God has gifted him to do!

Lastly, the youth group is currently in a new study. We are studying the book of 1 Kings. We are going to go through the entire books of 1 and 2 Kings. If you are reading this article, and your child is in the youth group the leaders and I would love if you and your child are discussing what they learned at youth group. We want to make sure that the students are actually taking something away from youth group every week. If you would like to know what we are studying ahead of time please let me know, and I will make sure to get you the scriptures every week. For now, that is all of the big things happening here, but remember if you ever need a hug this big ole teddy bear has one for you!



Lots of Love,

Josh

Jokes with Josh: A married couple was arguing about who would make the coffee, the wife said that in the Bible it says that men should make the coffee and the husband asked her where it said that. The wife opened the Bible and said: "Right here in HEBREWS!"



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.**

March Education Dates To Remember:

- Regular days and times for All Sunday School Classes
- March 7 No Family Night/Classes due to Soup and Pie Supper
- March 28 No Classes due to Easter/Passion Play Practices at the High School



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 Saylor
208 8th St SW
Unit 846
Orange City, IA 51041

Andrea Meyer
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LaCrosse, WI 54601

Kailey Bruxvoort
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Vermillion, SD 57069

MaKayla Tangeman
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Cedar Falls, IA 50613

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Peyton Creighton
2001 S. Summit Ave.
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Collin Van Diepen
Lake Area Sweets
Apt. #16
312 11th Street NE.
Watertown, SD 57201

Lars Ackerman
519 8th St.
Sibley, IA 51249



READ — THROUGH — THE BIBLE IN *365 Days* CHALLENGE

Here is your March edition of the 365 day challenge. During 2018, we will be printing a list of scriptures that will take you from beginning to end — Chronologically. Maybe reading the Bible this way is new for you, or maybe you have used this style before. Either way, it is a fun way to work your way through the best book ever written. We hope you enjoy your 365 Day Challenge!

March 1
Numbers 14-15;
Psalm 90

March 2
Numbers 16-17

March 3
Numbers 18-20

March 4
Numbers 21-22

March 5
Numbers 23-25

March 6
Numbers 26-27

March 7
Numbers 28-30

March 8
Numbers 31-32

March 9
Numbers 33-34

March 10
Numbers 35-36

March 11
Deuteronomy 1-2

March 12
Deuteronomy 3-4

March 13
Deuteronomy 5-7

March 14
Deuteronomy 8-10

March 15
Deuteronomy 11-13

March 16
Deuteronomy 14-16

March 17
Deuteronomy 17-20

March 18
Deuteronomy 21-23

March 19
Deuteronomy 24-27

March 20
Deuteronomy 28-29

March 21
Deuteronomy 30-31

March 22
Deuteronomy 32-34;
Psalm 91

March 23
Joshua 1-4

March 24
Joshua 5-8

March 25
Joshua 9-11

March 26
Joshua 12-15

March 27
Joshua 16-18

March 28
Joshua 19-21

March 29
Joshua 22-24

March 30
Judges 1-2

March 31
Judges 3-5

MARCH PRAYER LIST

BE A
Prayer
WARRIOR

Pray For God's People

- 1: Larry and Melissa De Boer; Kalie, Jayden and Kendra
- 2: Le Roy and Glenda De Boer
- 3: Pray for our College Students
- 4: Pray for our Church
- 5: Marcus and Angie De Boer
- 6: Joe and Nisa de Boom; Delaney and Danika
- 7: Heath and Wendy De Jong; Hunter, Dahson and Jahlyn
- 8: Minnie De Jong
- 9: Nathan De Jong
- 10: Pray for our College Students
- 11: Pray for our Church
- 12: Tracy Den Beste
- 13: Gary and Sandy De Vries
- 14: Glenn Doorenbos
- 15: Merlin and Karen Doorenbos
- 16: Paul Doorenbos
- 17: Pray for our College Students
- 18: Pray for our Church
- 19: Cory and Amy Dykstra; Cody, Wyatt and Cole
- 20: Lavon Dykstra
- 21: Mark and Tanya Dykstra; Tanner and Makya
- 22: Ron and Nancy Dykstra
- 23: Scott and Marlys Dykstra
- 24: Pray for our College Students
- 25: Pray for our Church
- 26: Trudy Dykstra
- 27: Leona Eben
- 28: Harold and Luella Eggink
- 29: Jon and Amy Elser; Mariah and Maverick
- 30: Anita Ernst
- 31: Pray for our College Students

College Students:

Lars Ackerman

Meggan Block

Peyton Chrichton

Britta Harberts

Andrea Meyer

Garrett Saylor

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

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

Romans 12:12

March Celebrations

~~*Birthdays*~~

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 Alex Anderson
Arnie Langstraat
Heidi Saylor | 10 Lucy Anderson
Sofia Hisek
Mark Van Der Sloot
Bryan Verdoorn | 19 Annette Janssen
Cory Maxwell
Dave Myers |
| 2 Lydia Buysman | 11 John Mc Dougall | 20 Kayla Ackerman |
| 4 Luella Eggink
Pierce Julius | 12 Tim Kruger
Jared Tiedeman
John Van Diepen, SR. | 23 Chelsey Alexander
Cole Hoekstra |
| 5 Faye Carda
Clint Klaassen | 13 Elia Altoff
Hunter De Jong
Greg Tracy | 24 Glenda De Boer
Brian Loerts |
| 6 Blake Loerts | 14 Kevin Klaassen | 25 Nick Buysman
Mitch Kreykes |
| 7 Sandy Heronimus
Darcy Martinez | 15 Brianna Jacobsma | 26 Mike Kraayenbrink |
| 8 Dee Baker | 17 Abby Kreykes
Tate Marco | 29 Norah Fox
Nash Loerts
Kim McDougall |
| 9 Marissa Heibult | 18 Josie Herrboldt
Addison Hulstein
Darlene Jurgens | 30 Logan Bruxvoort
Alea Ross |
| | | 31 Lynn Mulder |

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

- 2 Larry and Jane Buysman-62 years
- 6 Justin and Angie Van Tilburg-4 years
- 8 Bobby and Dee Baker-43 years
- 8 Mark and Kim Van Der Sloot-10 years
- 18 Ken and Sandy Heronimus-35 years
- 19 Ted and Eileen Schutte-5 years
- 20 Jason and Gina Jacobsma-14 years
- 21 Greg and Tami Tracy-9 years
- 30 Bob and Gladys Tiedeman-47 years



Sportsmen's Devotional

Bible Study Verses

Proverbs 10:1 "A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is the grief of his mother." (NKJV)

Thoughts

As soon as I read this proverb, I thought of numerous instances when, unfortunately, I have done both, brought joy and grief.

A traveler and adventurer by heart, I have been blessed with the opportunity to see and experience a lot of wonderful things. Canadian sunrises and Mexican sunsets are events of which I will never get tired. God brightly paints the sky; and just to be included in the frame and see it will always astound me. Some of the places I have visited have been remote, to say the least.

The adventures have made my father proud and my mother lose sleep at night. Usually when I tell her about an upcoming trip, she sighs and asks, "Now where are you going that I never heard of?" Her favorite part of any of my adventures is when I call her to tell her that the plane has landed and I am on my way home.

To cause the grief and worry she experiences is never intentional on my part. The cause is me being me; and no matter how old I get, my mom will always be my mom.

Action Point

Sunrises and sunsets should never be taken for granted. We will only have so many of them to see during our short stay here.

Just take a moment to enjoy each one of them. It can be a great start to any day and put the finishing touches on a great adventure.

Sportsman's Tip of the Day

When leaving on any trip, always prepare ahead of time. If it's a bear hunt, practice with a rifle or bow before you leave. Instill in your subconscious the skills you will need before the moment of truth arrives. In that way, you will react to the situation with what you have been trained to do. Also, always leave information of where you are going and the points where you will be stopping. If a situation arises that requires your attention, it will be easier for people to contact you. Never assume it can't happen to you, because it can.



Hillbilly Ten Commandments

1. Ain't but one God.
2. Honor yer Ma and Pa.
3. No tellin' tales or gossipin'.
4. Git yer hide ta Sunday meetin'.
5. Ain't notin' come before the Lord.
6. No foolin' with another feller's gal.
7. No killin', cept fer critters.
8. Quit yer foul mouthin'.
9. No swipin' yer kin folk's stuff.
10. Don't be hankerin' fer it neither.



The Osceola County Ministerial Association
Good Friday Passion Play
Friday, March 30, 2018

It's the 34th production of the Osceola County Community Ministerial Association Good Friday Passion Play. Plan now to attend on Friday, March 30, 2018.

There will be three performances: 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. at the Sibley-Ocheyedan High School Auditorium.

FREE tickets are available and may be reserved by calling [712-754-2945](tel:712-754-2945) or by emailing ocmapassionplay@gmail.com. Church groups and organizations may request enough tickets for their entire group. Please do not reserve more than you actually need.

Reserved tickets can be picked up at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 30 at the Sibley-Ocheyedan High School. Any tickets not picked up one-half hour before the performance will be made available to the general public. Any seats empty 10 minutes prior to the performance will be made available to people waiting for tickets.

Listen to KIWA for ticket availability.

Attending this special program will heighten your appreciation of what our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, experienced on that Good Friday and will help prepare you for the glory of Easter morning.





Men's Lenten Breakfast

All gentlemen in the community are invited to enhance their Lenten experience by attending the Men's Lenten Breakfasts on:



March 14 at 6:30 am



Host: First Presbyterian Church
Devotions by: First Reformed Church

March 28 at 6:30 am

Host: Sibley Christian Reformed Church
Devotions by: United Congregational Church



Passion Play Schedule:

***Saturday, March 24, 8:00 AM**

Setup at S-O School.

Meet at Sibley Christian Reformed Church at 8:00 AM to load pickups and trailers.

***Sunday, March 25, 2:00-4:00 PM**

Rehearsal, including children

***Monday, March 26, 7:00-9:00 PM**

Rehearsal, no children

***Tuesday, March 27, 7:00-9:00 PM**

Rehearsal, no children

***Wednesday, March 28, 7:00-10:00 PM**

Full dress rehearsal with children
(Children will be dismissed at 8:00 PM)

***Friday, March 30, 3:00 PM**

Make-up for the entire cast

***Saturday, March 31, 8:00 AM**

Take down the sets

If there are any questions, please feel free to call Curt & Peg Van Kley at 754-2945, Becky Krogman at 754-2967 or Gretchen Bartelson at 301-3748.

First Reformed Church

Presents:

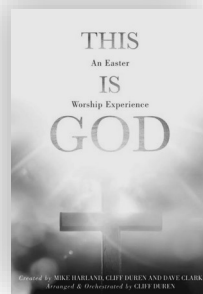
"This Is God"

Easter Cantata

Sunday

April 1, 2018

at 10:00 am



As we prepare our Easter Cantata, the choir would like to invite anyone in the congregation who is interested in singing, to join us.

Practice is on Sundays at 1:30 pm. on:
March 4, 11, 18, and 25th.

If you have any questions please contact Peg Van Kley. We are looking forward to a great turn out with many voices!!!

AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha



Mom, I think Dad is taking the "day of rest" a little too far.

Meet Our

SAYURI & ABRAHAM KIST-OKAZAKI



Missionaries

Dear Friends,

If you have ever been to a tulip festival in any one of the quaint Dutch towns in the Midwest, you might have an inkling of what the town of Tomioka once was before it became a ghost town five years ago when the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in the town which borders their north was crippled in the aftermath of the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami. In early spring the Cherry Blossom Street in the center of town was where folks from near and far would gather to watch locals dressed in traditional costumes dance in the parade under the canopy of blossoms in full bloom. Now the street has become the dividing line in

which the Government has determined that the radiation levels on left side of the road are so dangerous that people will not be allowed to enter for thirty years and meanwhile on the right side it is safe enough that people can return to live next spring.

Last week Sayuri and I led a group from congregations in Tokyo for their fifth annual visit to Fukushima to listen to the stories of those whose lives have been impacted by tragedy and to worship and fellowship with congregations on the edge of the “safe” district. We felt more than ever a deep gratitude for your continued support. With all eyes in Japan focused on the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, the plight of the people of Fukushima has faded into the background. The decontamination efforts by the government to date have filled over ten million one-ton bags of radioactive waste, which will begin to leach out contamination in three years. Many of these bags are piled up in mountains on the seashore and some have been dragged out to sea during the seasonal typhoons.

Amidst all the uncertainty and anxiety, the congregations we visited in Fukushima have been a beacon of hope to their communities. They have provided them with both spiritual and physical help whether that be an open ear to listen, or a machine in the church to measure the radioactivity in their food or clothes. I was particularly moved to hear the story of man who has been struggling to let go of a farm that has been in his family for many generations describe the solace he felt in his first experience of Christian worship.

For the past five years, the Reformed Church in America has been steadfast in its financial assistance toward the disaster relief efforts in Japan, just as our supporting congregations have been faithful in their support of Sayuri and me in our ministry here for the past two decades. You have truly been a source of hope to people in despair.

Yours in Christ

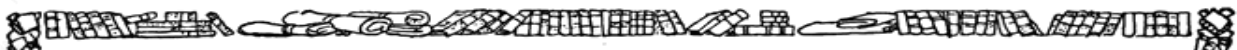
Sayuri and Abraham Kist-Okazaki



Members from Tokyo congregations fellowshiping at Joban Church in Fukushima.

Sayuri's ministry

Sayuri Kist-Okazaki is an ordained RCA pastor who is working with National Church Women's Guild as one of the executive members to empower women who serve churches faithfully. Abraham and Sayuri are also working as associate pastors at Kugahara Church for local mission as well as being called by many churches and regional gatherings to preach nationwide for evangelism and leadership training. Together they train and teach churches so they can more effectively reach non-Christians, who make up 99 percent of Japan's population.



From the library-- Like last month, I am going to tell you about some new family friendly DVDs that have been added to the library.

The first is based on a Karen Kingsbury book **LIKE DANDELION DUST**. Wendy and Rip Piper, a working class couple, are fighting to regain custody of Joey - young son Wendy gave up for adoption when Rip went to prison seven years earlier. But Joey's adoptive parents will stop at nothing to ensure that the small boy stays in the only home he has ever known.

If you have read the "Love Comes Softly" series by Janette Oke you may want to check out and watch the following DVDs.

LOVE COMES SOFTLY: Marty and Aaron Claridge travel west in search of new opportunity. But when tragedy strikes Marty is suddenly widowed, the young woman must face the rugged terrain, bleak weather, and life among strangers—alone. That is, until handsome widower named Clark Davis suggests a platonic "marriage of convenience" until Marty can return home. As the months pass, though, Marty and Clark discover an unexpected new love where there was once only loss.

LOVE'S ENDURING PROMISE: Missie Davis is devoted to teaching school and doing her fair share on the farm. When a handsome railroad heir starts to woo her, Missie is nearly swept off her feet. That is until a mysterious stranger with a troubled past shows up. Torn between two very different men Missie learns what is truly important.

LOVE'S LONG JOURNEY: When Missie discovers, much to her surprise, that she is pregnant, she faces a new course in her life that's both terrifying and thrilling. She and her husband have headed west in a covered wagon, leaving behind the prairie home of Missie's parents. Now caught between the excitement of a new adventure and the uncertainty of not knowing when she'll see her family again, Missie copes with the challenges and cherishes the rewards of her new homeland.

LOVE'S ABIDING JOY: Following a treacherous journey West Missie and her husband have set up a homestead where they have begun to raise their family. And now that a railroad connects the states Missie's father is able to visit. But when the joyful reunion is interrupted by tragedy, the faith and love of this family is once again challenged.

LOVE'S UNFOLDING DREAM: Missie's adopted daughter Belinda is determined to become a doctor, but despite her determination and ability, Doc Jackson believes women should stay at home-and so does her suitor. But with faith and hard work, Belinda begins winning the hearts and minds of everyone, including a wealthy dowager, who just might help make Belinda's dreams come true.

Jeannette Juffer





Consistory Meeting February 19, 2018

Elders Meeting
6pm

5 present, a quorum

23. Pastor Luke opened the meeting with prayer.
24. Conversation was had with Jaden Abels, who came to the board of Elders to make her Profession of Faith.
25. MMSC to approve Profession of Faith for Jaden Abels.
26. Conversation was had with Gina Jacobsma, who came to us about re-affirming her faith in Jesus Christ,
27. The Constitutional Question was asked about any members needing spiritual care.
28. 262 Members were served communion over the past 2 weeks.
29. MMSC to approve reading of the minutes.
30. MMSC to adjourn following prayer by Duane.

Full Consistory Meeting
7:15 pm

12 present, a quorum

31. Pastor Luke opened with devotions from Hebrews 11:23-31 and then offered prayer.
32. The various ministry teams gave their reports.

Old Business:

33. The second reading of the by-laws was had, and some changes were offered. No action was taken.
34. MMSC to start paying \$100/month (paying quarterly) to support the ministry of Colas Montrema in Haiti.

New Business:

35. MMSC to send 2 deacons to find out if the Lantern will continue as a non-profit ministry.
- Communications:
36. A letter was read to the consistory that came from one of the members of church.
 37. The consistory had an AMAZING Holy Spirit filled time of prayer for our congregation here at FRC!
 38. Treasurer's Report was given,
 39. Deacon's Business was reported.
 40. MMSC to approve the minutes.
 41. MMSC to adjourn following prayer by Charlie Kuhl.

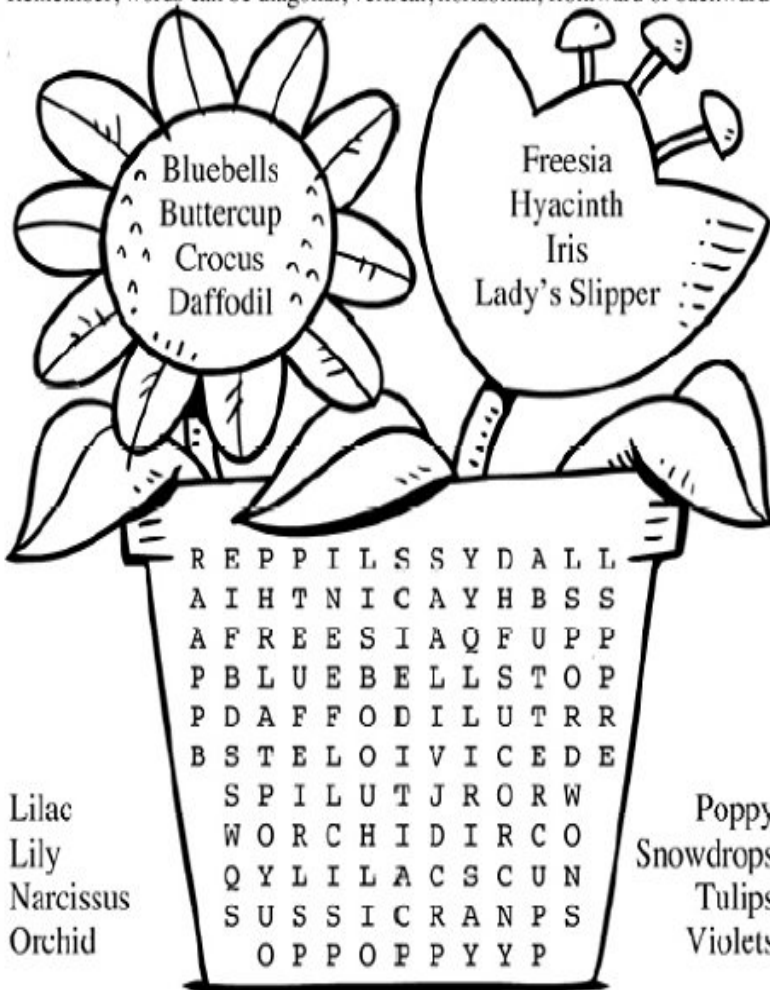


An Update for...

Operation Christmas Child -- 8,878,954 shoebox gifts were collected in the U.S. in 2017 and 11 million worldwide!! Please continue to pray over the transportation of these gifts, for the millions of children who will hear the Gospel at shoebox outreach events, and for the local church partners who facilitate gift-giving and The Greatest Journey follow-up discipleship program.

Spring Flower Word Search

Try to find all of the hidden spring flower related words in the puzzle below. Remember, words can be diagonal, vertical, horizontal, frontward or backwards.



Kids Say the Funniest Things!!

A little boy walked down the beach, and as he did, he spied a matronly woman sitting under a beach umbrella on the sand. He walked up to her and asked, "Are you a Christian?" "Yes." "Do you read your Bible every day?" She nodded her head, "Yes." "Do you pray often?" the boy asked next, and again she answered, "Yes." With that he asked his final question. "Will you hold my quarter while I go swimming?"

Trivia Time Answers!!!

1. D 2.C 3.A 4.A

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

4TH GRADE



5TH GRADE



Don't shine so that others can see you. Shine so that through you, others can see HIM.

C. S. Lewis

FRC in Action...



Youth Sunday 2018



Making Valentines for Nursing Home Residents