



View our Website at: sibleyfrc.org



Distractions. How easily they can hinder us from getting done what needs to get done. This month I have struggled with what to write. About the time I am thinking of something I get distracted. Something else comes to mind, another decision that needs to be made, one more thing added to the schedule and it just continues. Frustration builds, anxiety sets in, and what you wanted to get accomplished never does.

I know that Satan uses whatever he can to distract us from grow-

ing closer to Christ and from getting God's work accomplished. Satan is sly about it and often we don't even realize what he is doing. He keeps us busy, pulls us away from God and makes us lose our focus and what should be.

I am sitting at a McDonalds as I write this article (yes while I'm on vacation because I procrastinated and let distractions get in my way before I left) and usually when I do that I can be pretty focused. But today it is different. I overhear a man having problems with his motorcycle battery not working properly. I see a worker trying to figure out an issue. I'm wondering how people in Maryland are maybe different and similar than us. I'm thinking about matters of the church, matters to the family, matters of life. My phone is ringing occasionally. All these are distractions from what I need to get done. That is this newsletter.

Think of all the distractions that are happening within your own life even now. Maybe it is sickness, maybe you are struggling emotionally, maybe with changes you didn't expect, finances, relationships, or what others have that you want, the upcoming holidays. It could be a million things.

But these distractions have reminded me of where I need to stay focused. That is on my relationship with Christ. Jesus can bring such clarity when there is so much happening around us. Taking the time to refocus can be challenging but the more I can focus on Christ the clearer things become. The calmer I become, the less stressed I feel. Becoming refocused on God brings peace.

In Hebrews we recognize the many distractions and sin that hinders where our focus should be. The writer says,

"Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:1-3

And in Psalm 141:8 we read,

"But my eyes are fixed on you, Sovereign Lord, in you I take refuge.

When we take the time to refocus it is wonderful to see what God can do. Even in my time sitting down to write this article, I feel the presence of God's love, I am more calmed, I am finding peace, and I am less distracted. That's the power of God.

So, if you are feeling overwhelmed and distracted especially as we enter into the holiday seasons, take the time to sit, relax and fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. It will be challenging but hang in there, God will make his presence known.

Thankful and Blessed, Pastor Luke

It's Coffee Time. With the Pastor!! Come join Pastor Luke and Josh for coffee at 9 am on November 7th.

We would love to see you all!



Stewardship & Giving

Special offering for November: Talking Bibles Offering Summary through October 24 General Fund: 297,182; Budget: 311,308; 95% of budget Benevolent Fund: 41,352; Budget: 108,215; 38% of budget Building Fund: 1,415; Budget: 54,210; 2% of budget

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



November Faith In Action:



Share the love of Jesus, through the power of a simple gift, with children around the world.



Shoeboxes are due November 18 by Noon.

Trivia Time!!! The Book of Luke

1. Which two books of the New Testament did Luke write?

A) Colossians & Galations B) Galatians & the Acts C) Luke & Colossians D) Luke & The Acts

2. What was Luke's occupation?

A) Physician B) Fisherman C) Soldier D) Tax Collector

3. Which famous Missionary did Luke travel and teach with?

A) James B) John C) Peter D) Paul

4. Which of these naratives was recorded ONLY by Luke?

A) The turning of water to wine B) Visit of Gabriel to Mary

C) Raising Lazarus from the dead D) Visit of the Wise Men

5. Which of these narratives was recorded ONLY by Luke?

A) The Woman at the Well B) Visit of Nicodemus

C) Visit of the shepherds to baby Jesus D) Jesus' ascension

Cornerstone Service Greeters, 9 am

- 4: West—Justin and Angela Van Tilburg/family Middle—David Van Ruler/Family East—Harvey and Marcia Van Ruler
- 11: West—Bryan Verdoorn and Roger Verdoorn Middle—Joel and Kathy Verdoorn East—Larry and Alfreda Verdoorn
- 18: West—Brent and Brenda Wassman/family Middle—Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar East—AJ and Jenny Weg/family

Thanksgiving Eve Service

- 21: West—Lawrence and Ruth Ann Wiersma Middle—Ryan Wiersma and Paul Feldkamp East—Kody and Rachel Wills/family
- 25: West—Gary and Jessa Wolter Mid—Charlie and Brenda Ackerman/family East—Dean and Michelle Ackerman

9:00 am Nursery

- 4: Pam Vande Hoef and Jill Boeke
- 11: Lesa Stofferan and Jodene Kruse
- 18: Kathy Verdoorn and Marcia Van Ruler
- 21: Thanksgiving Eve (6:30 pm) Jennifer and Ella Bruxvoort
- 25: Brenda and Alyssa Wassman

Sunday School Nursery

- 4: Peg Van Kley
- 11: Ruth Ann Wiersma
- 18: Luella Eggink
- 25: No Sunday School (Thanksgiving Break)

11:00 am Nursery

- 4: Tami and Lindy Tracy
- 11: Angie Ackerman and Amber Mortenson
- 18: Missy Julius and Kim Van Der Sloot
- 25: Karen Honken and Amy Dykstra

Library Volunteers



- 4: Jane Buysman
- 11: Marilynn De Boer
- 18: Gert Gaalswyk
- 25: Jan Henrichs



<u>10:00</u>

- 4: Heath DeJong
- 11: Lennis Harberts
- 18: Duane Vande Hoef
- 25: Dick Oldenkamp

<u>12:00</u>

- 4: Marcus De Boer
- 11: Lawrence Wiersma
- 18: Dale Honken
- 25: Bill Hartzell



November Willing Hands Group



Willing Hands Group #5

will be responsible for services during the month.

Co-chairpersons are:

- Dar and Dennis Jurgens
 - Deb and Greg Kosters
 - Shelia and Harold
 Van Der Sloot

Fellowship Coffee Servers

- 4: Ger and Barb Van Diepen
- 11: John and Lois Van Diepen
- 18: Keith and Janelle Van Drunen
- 25: Jim and Pauline Van Engen



Cornerstone Service 9:00 am

- 4: Leader: Deb Kosters Helper: Ashilyn Hulstein
- **11:** Leader: Jamie Hulstein Helper: Alexis Hulstein
- 18: Leader: Annette Janssen Helper: Kathy Verdoorn
- 25: Leader: Annette Janssen Helper: Karissa Hulstein

Open Door Service 11:00 am

- 4: Leader: Deb Kosters Helper: The Family of Brynna Loerts
- **11:** Leader: **Deb Kosters** Helper: The Family of Addison McDyer
- 18: Leader: Deb Kosters Helper: The Family of Logan Ver Steeg
- **25:** Leader: **Deb Kosters** Helper: The Family of Elesson Joseph

After Church Greeters



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

- 11:SE: Pastor Luke
 - C: Josh Lucas
 - SW: Ken Loerts BE: Ed Meendering
 - BW: Dick Oldenkamp

18:SE: Lyle PeelenC: Pastor LukeSW: Josh LucasBE: Larry RiebelingBW: Cal Runia

- **21:** SE: Bob Tiedeman
 - C: Duane Vande Hoef
 - SW: Pastor Luke
 - BE: Josh Lucas
 - **BW: Paul Vander Linden**
- 25: SE: John Van Diepen C: Curt Van Kley SW: Harvey Van Ruler BE: Pastor Luke BW: Josh Lucas



Children and Worship Leaders/Helpers



<u>Faith Bible Study</u>, who meets the third Monday of most months, will meet on **Monday**, **November 19** at 9:00 am in the Library. Leader: Luella Eggink; Hostess: Jan Harskamp. We will study the chapter "Jesus and the Angels", in Douglas Connelly's book, ANGELS. Scripture for the morning comes from Hebrews: 1. We have been really enjoying the lessons about Angels Standing Guard. There is always room for more so join us!!

Patience Bible Study, who meets the third Monday of most months, will meet on **Monday, November 19 at 4:00pm** will begin a new study, "Couples of the Old Testament." All women are invited to join us! Barb will lead and Gert will serve as hostess. If you are interested in joining this study, please let Barb Van Diepen know and she will get you a book.

<u>Monday Evening Bible Study</u> meets weekly on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm. Ladies, join us as we study the book of Colossians. This book is a letter written by Paul and many consider it as one of the most important letters ever written. This will be a video study that will go in depth on this book of the Bible. Video teaching will be by Pastor Louie Giglio. We will meet weekly for this 8 part Bible Study. Contact Annette Janssen for more details 754-4174.

Sunday Morning Women's Sunday School Class, who meet on the north side of the west end of the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings at 10:10 am, will continue their six-session video-based study, *Let. It. Go.*, from author and popular speaker Karen Ehman. Women are wired to control life's details. This video series aims to give women practical, biblically based steps for letting go of the need to control, dictate, and even manipulate the people and situations around them, and instead, trust that God has their best interests in mind. All women are welcome!

Men's Bible Study



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



Hello First Reformed Church,

I hope everyone is having a wonderful day and an awesome October! My October has been very busy with fundraisers and preparing for the baby! Speaking of the baby! Hannah and I are happy to announce that we are having a baby girl! Everything checks out and she is very healthy, so praise God for all of the blessings of this beautiful girl!

Here are somethings to take note of as winter approaches. First, in December we are going to be having our next big fundraiser! We are going to do a fundraiser called, "Date Night." This fundraiser is going to be so much fun. Also, it is a great way for couples to come together to enjoy a delicious meal at a reasonable price, enjoy a good wholesome Christ centered film, and to just enjoy each other's company as husband and wife! Second, the junior high group will be selling Papa Murphy's pizzas again! Be on the lookout for these amazing easy to make meals! Finally, thank you so much for your continued support so far this year for the youth group! We are very grateful for everything you as a congregation give us!

We are always on the lookout for more leaders to join our amazing team! If you are feeling a calling to serve in some capacity in the church come talk to me, and we will be happy to have you join us on Wednesdays! Hannah and I are praying for each and every one of you. Please let us know if you have any prayer requests or just want to talk! Remember if anyone needs a hug, this big ole' teddy bear has got one for you!

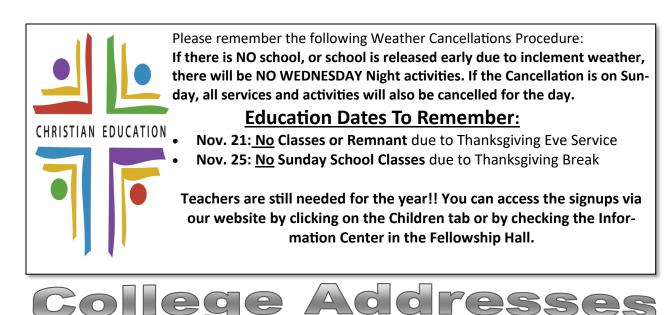
With Lots of Love,

Josh Lucas



Jokes with Josh: Q- What's the difference between a guitar and a fish?

A- You can't tuna fish



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 #270 SDSU Brookings, SD 57007

Garrett Sayler 516 Arizona Ave NE Orange City, IA 51041

Andrea Meyer 1249 Eaton Lawther Ames IA 50012-1064

Colby Wagenaar 1230 1st Street Brookings, SD 57006 Jena Van Marel 8181 Fannin Street Apt. 2531 Houston, TX 77054

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

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

Hunter DeJong 2026 Hawthorne Drive Fredrickson Court Apt 7223 Ames, IA 50011 Peyton Crichton 2001 S. Summit Ave Mail Box 407 Sioux Falls, SD 57197

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

Lars Ackerman 519 8th St. Sibley, IA 51249

Paige Hurlburt 702 E Cherry Street Beede #328 Vermillion, SD 57069 Kalie DeBoer 815 8th Street Sibley, IA 51249

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

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

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

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 365 Days CHALLENGE

November 1 Matthew 20-21

November 2 Luke 18:15-19:48

November 3 Mark 11; John 12

November 4 Matthew 22; Mark 12

November 5 Matthew 23; Luke 20-21

November 6 Mark 13 November 7

Matthew 24

November 8 Matthew 25 Matthew 26; Mark 14

November 9

November 10 Luke 22; John 13

November 11 John 14-17

November 12 Matthew 27; Mark 15

November 13 Luke 23; John 18-19

November 14 Matthew 28; Mark 16

November 15 Luke 24; John 20-21

The November edition of the 365 day challenge is here. 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!

November 16 Acts 1-3

November 17 Acts 4-6

November 18 Acts 7-8

November 19 Acts 9-10

November 20 Acts 11-12

November 21 Acts 13-14

November 22 James 1-5

November 23 Acts 15-16

November 24 Galatians 1-3

November 25 Galatians 4-6

November 26 Acts 17-18:18

November 27 1 Thessalonians 1-5; 2 Thessalonians 1-3

November 28 Acts 18:19-19:41

November 29 1 Corinthians 1-4

November 30 1 Corinthians 5-8



PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

- 1: Lawrence and Ruth Ann Wiersma
- 2: Ryan Wiersma
- 3: Pray for our College Students
- 4: Pray for our Church
- 5: Kody and Rachel Wills; Kenzie, Jada
- 6: Geneva Wissink
- 7: Gary and Jessa Wolter
- 8: Renae Wolter
- 9: Chris and Tiffany Wynia; Elizabeth, Codie, Mackenzie
- 10: Pray for our College Students
- 11: Pray for our Church
- 12: Charlie and Brenda Ackerman; Kayla, Leah, Marissa
- 13: Dean and Michelle Ackerman; Adam
- 14: Derek and Megan Ackerman
- 15: Mitch and Angie Ackerman; Lars
- 16: Terry and Chrissy Ackerman; Zoe, Jaeger

- 17: Pray for our College Students
- 18: Pray for our Church
- 19: Brian and Chelsey Alexander; Kimberlie; Riley
- 20: Brian and Elia Altoff; Will, Gracia
- 21: Mike and Melissa Anderson; Gabrielle, Alexandria, Jude, Lucia, Ezra
- 22: Bobby and Dee Baker
- 23: John and Sharon Bartels
- 24: Pray for our College Students
- 25: Pray for our Church
- 26: Gretchen Bartelson
- 27: Michael and Andrea Block; Michaela, Michael Jr.
- 28: Troy and Meggan Block; Halle, Brady, Kolby
- 29: Travis and Jill Boeke; Emma
- 30: Jerry and Sylvia Bosma

College Students:

Paige Hurlburt Kaitlyn Bechler Kalie De Boer Keyana Gust Jaden Abels Madison Norman Nick Buysman Hunter DeJong Hunter Rockman Ryan Van Marel

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

Adam Ackerman Kailey Bruxvoort Lexi Ackerman Sarah Honken Jena Van Marel

Ignacio Romero Devan Vander Veen Owen Wiese Hannah Lucas

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12



PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Assisted Living

Ethel Jurgens Geneva Wissink Leona Eben

The Nursing Homes

Minnie De Jong Tracy Den Beste Dutch Kruger Lois May Harold Schram

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



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

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

Meetings this Month

- November 14: A Time of Thankfulness
 - November 28: MT will not meet



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

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



A Community Choir Cantata *"Sing Christmas"* will be presented on Sunday, December 16, 2018 at 2:00 PM at Sibley-Ocheyedan High School. The concert will be directed by S-O vocal instructor Ben Sides and will serve as a *benefit for ATLAS of Osceola County*.

SINGERS WELCOME (7th Grade and older): IF YOU LOVE TO SING AND WOULD LIKE TO BE A PART OF THIS EXCITING COMMUNITY CHOIR, please contact Brenda Krahling (461-0687) or Peg Van Kley (461-0635) soon. Each singer will be provided with printed music and a voice-dominant CD.

The following large group rehearsals have been scheduled in Sibley:

- 7:40 pm Wednesdays Nov. 7, 14, & 28 and Dec. 5 at Trinity Lutheran Church
- 2:00 pm Sundays Nov. 11 & 18 and Dec. 2 at First Reformed Church
- 2:00 pm Sunday Dec. 9
- 10:00 am Saturday Dec. 15 at S-O High School

From the library--



One of the perks of volunteering at Sibley's thrift store, "New Beginnings" is that I am able to see a lot of what is donated to the store. I have always had a passion for books so I usually look at the donations that come into the back room of the store. I noticed a book that I thought would be interesting, by an author we already have in our library and obtained the book. The title of it is SECRETS OF THE WILD BY Stephanie Grace Whitson, it is three novels in one volume. You will read about the same characters in each book.

Following is a synopsis of each novel: Number one SECRETS ON THE WIND takes place shortly after the Civil War—"Two soldiers discover a desperate woman hidden in a cellar and take her back to their U.S. Army post at Fort Robinson, Nebraska. Every effort is made to reach out to this strange, silent woman, but after living through her worst nightmare, Laina Gray isn't ready to trust anyone with her secrets—not God, and definitely not the handsome soldier who tries to befriend her."

Book number two is WATCHERS ON THE HILL and its timeline is about ten years after the Civil War—"In her earlier years, Charlotte Valentine Bishop was a flirtatious young beauty in search of an army officer to marry. But the passage of years has made her a different woman—one in desperate need of safe haven. Her return to Fort Robinson brings many surprises including the appearance of two former beaus."

Fast forward to World War II and German POWs in the U.S.; the final novel is FOOT-PRINTS ON THE HORIZON—"A Nazi soldier has come to Fort Robinson as a prisoner of war. When he meets Josephine Hale, the daughter of a local minister, he falls in love. Can there be any hope of a future together for an American girl and a German prisoner of war? Can the unconditional love of God work beyond enemy lines?"

I found the book very interesting and had a difficult time putting aside. Yes, it is very thick, you will not be able to carry it in your purse for reading while waiting. Instead get comfy in a recliner or your favorite chair where you can put the book in your lap and prepare yourself to spend an enjoyable time.

Jeannette Juffer

Se.

November Celebrations

~~Bírthday's~~

- Matthew McDougall 1
- Melissa De Boer 2
- 3 Jennifer Bruxvoort Lincoln McDyer
- 4 **Rodney Hulstein** Sami Fox
- 5 Scott Hulstein Jamie Hulstein Hudson Feldkamp
- Parker Loerts 6
- 7 Nisa de Boom Wyatt Dykstra Haley Klaassen
- Lucille Groendyke 8
- 11 Dan Heilman
- 13 Steve Van Kley Marlin Roelfs Tiffany Wynia Jill Boeke Anne Maxwell
- 14 Paul Doorenbos Karla Crichton Kelsey Kleinwolterink Kendra Janssen
- In a<u>ll</u> things GIVE THANKS

- 15 **Bobby Baker**
- 16 Dalten Bremer Jaeger Ackerman
- 17 Dwayne Heikes
- 18 Derek Heronimus Jenny Tiedemann A.J. Weg
- **Emily Feldkamp** 19
- 20 Marvella Harberts Amy Dykstra Amelia Heilman
- 21 Roger Iedema Addysen Langstraat
- 22 Nathan Buysman
- 23 Maverick Elser Kody Wills

- 24 Jen Schram **Braelyn Hurlburt**
- **Regina** Meyer 25 Carter Brouwer Teddy Van Gelder
- 26 Mitch Ackerman
- 27 Geneva Wissink Junior Rasmussen Jagger Johnson Alyssa Jacobsma Gabby Anderson
- 28 Carl Berkenpas Dave Kleinwolterink

36 yrs.

1 yr.

58 yrs.

- 29 Cal Runia Kevin Heemstra
- Kaitlyn Mulder 30

have Whom my soul Loves

~~Anniversaries~~

- Lawrence & Ruth Ann Wiersma 40 yrs. 3
- 3 Mitch & Angie Ackerman 11 yrs.
- 6 Paul & Phyllis Vander Linden 54 yrs.
- 14 Charlie & Brenda Ackerman 26 yrs. 29 yrs.
- 17 Kevin & Nancy Soat
- 19 Scott & Marlys Dykstra
- 24 Dave & JoAnn Calsbeek 51 yrs. 28 yrs.
- Kelly & Rochelle Jacobsma 24
- 25 Dale & Amy Carda
- Harold & Mim Ernst 26

Sportsmen's Devotional

Bible Study Verse

Jeremiah 20:13

Sing to the Lord! Give praise to the Lord! He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked. (NIV)



Thoughts

With the greed and power struggle that is going on in the world today, we must stay focused on God. Politicians with their lies to take over, control and deceive, their fake lofty promises to rescue us from ourselves they are wicked my friends and at times we all seem helpless to defend against the criminals that were elected to represent us.

The war is on and it's real. However, as I read a note from a friend the other day he brought up this point, "I know how it ends," he said. "I skipped to the back of the book and we win!"

He was right you know, God tells us evil men will run out all just people. However in the end my friends, in the end, the righteous will be victorious. We have that promise from GOD! (Jim C)

Action Point

I have never been one to go along with the crowd. I stand on my own, reason on my own and look at the world around me.

Watch those who go along with the crowd, they want those false idols for one reason only. The reason is so that someone will provide the earthly things they all desire. All those desires will fade and become worthless with time. They live for the moment they live for the greed. They do not really live, they merely exist.

God has made us a better promise and one no man can ever live up to.

Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

Hunting takes on a whole new meaning when you involve kids. Deer, duck and pheasant hunting become so much better. Take a kid hunting and give him or her a memory to remember for life.

Trivia Time Answers!!! 1.D 2.A 3.D 4.B 5. C



Meeting Minutes

Administrative Team Meeting September 26, 2018

- 165. Pastor Luke opened with prayer
- 166. MMSC to allow Papito Joseph to solicit the congregation of FRC for donations of backpack and cash donations to purchase school supplies for kids in Haiti.
- 167. Pastor Luke closed with prayer.

Consistory Meeting October 15, 2018

Elders Meeting,6:00 pm

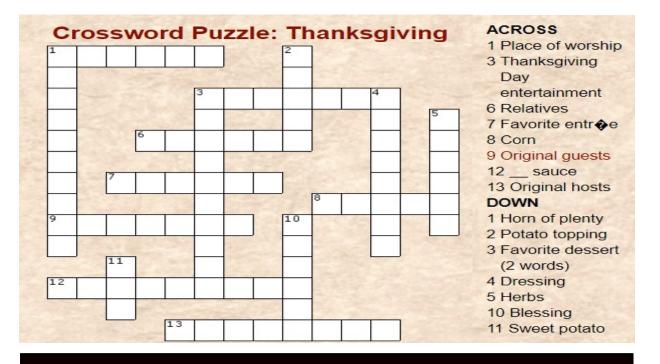
8 present, a quorum

- 168. Pastor Luke opened with prayer.
- 169. MMSC to approve membership transfer in of Stan and Abbey DeZeeuw and baptized children Keegan, Aiden, Joselyn and Addison.
- 170. MMSC to approve membership transfer out of Brent and Chelsey Town and baptized children Hudsyn, Hadlie, Kasen and Kayler to First Reformed Church of Sioux Center, IA.
- 171. The Consitutional question was asked about those needing spiritual care within FRC.
- 172. MMSC to approve church use for Marian Zevenbergen family on Sunday, October 21st at 2pm.
- 173. MMSC to approve the minutes as read.
- 174. MMSC to adjourn following prayer by Duane Vande Hoef

Consistory Meeting, 7:30 pm

All present, a quorum

- 175. Pastor Luke opened by reading from "Who Moved My Pulpit" and the Consistory had group prayer.
- 176. MMSC to only have one service on December 16th due to the Christmas Program.
- 177. Various ministry team reports were given.
- 178. Deacons business was discussed.
- 179. MMSC to discontinue our Swipe Away Poverty credit card giving.
- 180. MMSC to approve the minutes.
- 181. MMSC to adjourn following prayer by Dale Honken.



OUR DEBT TO THE HEROIC MEN AND VALIANT WOMEN IN THE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY CAN NEVER BE REPAID. THEY HAVE EARNED OUR UNDYING GRATITUDE. AMERICA WILL NEVER FORGET THEIR SACRIFICES.

PRESIDENT HARRY S TRUMAN



Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ! As we write this letter, we are celebrating the first week of Fall. We observe the beginning of the changing of the seasons: trees hinting at the changing of their colors, temperatures dipping lower, and, most significantly for us, the arrival of students for our study abroad pro-🕼 gram.

Just over three weeks ago, we had the opportunity to 🕼 welcome four students from Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa. Michaela, Hope, Rebecca, and Tim (see photo below) joined us to spend a semester learning about the Romanian language and culture and what it means to work alongside a nonprofit organization focusing on experiential education and community development. Already, they

Greet of focusi ¹-al of have shown a great deal of interest in Romanian young people and the environment. Our RCA colleagues, Felipe and Janelle Silva, have gladly welcomed these students into their work with impoverished Romanian children at their climbing gym and other outdoor activities. Our supervisor with our partner organization, Dana Bates, also led them on a weeklong hiking and camping excursion in the nearby Retezat National Park. We Lampens have a special role to play in the students' time spent learning here: we get to help them process their learning and care for them personally and spiritually. We hope to help open their eyes to the ways in which God is working among the Romanian people and to discover fresh ways to understand the life and love of Jesus Christ.

The change from summer to autumn also marks a change for us as a family from a season of discernment to a season of calling. Over the past year, we have invited you to pray with us as we sought to discern God's will for our life and ministry. And God has been faithful: the Holy Spirit has been with us through many conversations with many different potential ministry partners in many different locations. Ultimately, we discerned that the gifts, passions, and calling that God has given us will glorify him the most within a more traditional pastoral context in the United States. After talking with several congregations in the States, we were joyfully drawn to one particular gathering of God's people in Fairview, IL. We are very happy to testify to God's steadfast love for us as a family in bringing us together with the people of Fairview Reformed Church, who have called us to serve as their copastors, and which we have humbly accepted.

This great joy is accompanied by a feeling of melancholy as we consider transitioning away from our current roles as RCA missionaries in Romania. We have had the opportunity to make lifelong friends here in Romania, especially our dear RCA missionary colleagues, Felipe and Janelle Silva. Lorelei and Caspian have spent most of their lives in Romania. We have walked alongside dozens of students and helped shape an international Christian youth development curriculum. And while we are committed to fulfilling our current roles with New Horizons until the end of 2018, we find ourselves entering into a season of goodbyes. Please continue to hold us in your prayers as we strive to conclude our time here in Romania well.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank you, those who have prayed for us and supported us over the past three years. Whenever we found ourselves overwhelmed over the last few years,

we would remember you and your faithfulness, and God would sustain us in our ministry once again. Now, we find ourselves looking forward to serving alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ in the United States, remembering how churches like yours supported us, and seeking to support those RCA missionaries who God continues to call to share the gospel in international settings.

As you continue to pray for us in these upcoming few months, please pray for the following requests:

- We thank God for Lorelei (5 yrs.) and Caspian (first birthday on October 3!) and for the continued growth and development we see in their lives. We pray that God would work in and through them to the glory of Jesus Christ.
- We pray for God's presence and continued guidance of Hope, Rebecca, Michaela, and Tim who are studying with us this semester.
- We pray for our colleagues at the New Horizons Foundation in Romania. We are grateful for their dedication and hard work, and we pray that God might expand His Kingdom in and through them.
- We ask God to help us grow into pastors who will lead and serve the people of Fairview Reformed Church with humility, wisdom, and love.

May God be with you all, as you seek to live lives of love to the glory of Jesus Christ!

In Christ,

Jeff and Chelsea Lampen

Lampens' ministry

Jeffery and Chelsea Lampen have been appointed to serve in Romania, a new field for the RCA. They work with the New Horizons Foundation, an outreach to youth in Romania. Jeffery spent one year serving the Roma in Hungary, with the Hungarian Reformed Church, and Chelsea spent three months in Romania serving and getting to know New Horizon's work with youth through educational and community development models of engagement. To learn more go to <u>www.rca.org/lampen</u>.



It is time to start putting those shoboxes together. Shoeboxes are due from Nov 12 until noon on Nov 18. Lets see how many we can donate this year! Make this a

family event!! Remember...DO INCLUDE: a WOW item such as a doll or soccer ball with a pump, school supplies, personal care items, clothing, hair accessories, crafts, activities, toys, and a personal note. Do NOT include candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans. Remember your gift may be the only gift a child will ever receive.



VOLUNTEER AT A SHOEBOX PROCESSING CENTER

SENDING A MESSAGE OF LOVE

to children around the world



Sign Up to help at the Processing Center in Lakeville, MN on Thursday, November 29. We will leave church at 7:30am, work the 1-5 pm shift, and then return home.

Minimum age to sign up is 13.



Parents, please remind your children that the parking lot on

Wednesday nights is not a playground. We have heard concerns about students running between parked cars and playing Hide-and-Seek in our busy parking lot after class. We do not want anyone to get hurt.

Thanks for your help parents!!

