



First Reformed Church
The Newsletter
October 2017

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



***Words from
Pastor Luke***

This month begins the time for you to be able to review our budget proposal from consistory. I would like to take some time to help you understand both the budget and what our nomination process entails. In our October Consistory meeting we will give final approval of the budget based on your recommendations or questions. For the most part the budget remains the same as previous years. Most expenses stayed the same but a few changed and I would like to point those out.

In the Education Ministries we drop our Small groups/ Sunday School/Wednesday night Budget from \$7,000 to \$4000, this is due to the fact that we have material purchased for the next couple of years and is already on hand. When the time comes to purchase materials our budget will increase.

In the area of Payroll we based raises off of a 2% increase recommended by the Classis. We also added \$6500 for our new communications assistant position. Jamie Hulstein is now handling the bulletin each week as well as the monthly newsletter. She will also be working on Fridays so we will have an office presence Monday through Friday.

The other big increase is our Administrative Assistant salary. For many years we have been limited in being able to give Brenda a raise due to her being on disability. This restricted the amount of income she could receive. Brenda has put in more hours that asked and often has not recorded many of her work hours to stay under the disability minimum. As of last month, she is no longer receiving disability which now allows us to pay her what she truly has earned. You will notice that her salary has hardly changed since 2014. As an Administrative Team as well as consistory we feel blessed we can finally compensate her for the work she does.

Finally, the other increase is in insurance for the Director of Youth Ministries. We are covering both Josh and his wife under a policy. In the past, our Youth Director was single and thus single coverage.

Our assessments are almost \$5000 higher. This is due to our increased membership in this last year. We can celebrate almost 50 new members this past year. Our Partners in Mission shares also went up \$300 per share which results in a \$2100 increase.

We also added more money for local missions. You will notice a \$2000 increase in our giving to Atlas and \$2500 in support to The Lantern which is now a non-profit ministry run by Mike and Melissa Anderson. The Osceola County Love Bank is now under the Lantern ministries. We will still have an offering for the love bank.

There are little changes here and there and the Ministry teams have worked hard to be faithful in our financial management from the offerings you have given. We are always striving to be good stewards for the monies God has entrusted this church with.

If you have any questions or suggestions please contact one of the elders or deacons that is currently on consistory or you can make a request to be put on the agenda at our next consistory meeting October 16th. Our church by laws state in Article 3, Section 3: "Only such business as has previously been presented to and discussed by the Consistory shall be placed on the agenda of the Congregational Meeting (matters of business from the membership, for the Congregational meeting, must be in the hands of the Consistory for their meetings prior to the Congregational meeting in order to be included on the agenda.)"

Pastor Luke

Cornerstone Service Greeters for October, 9 am



1 West - Mike and Mary Hustoft
Middle - Jason and Gina Jacobsma/family
East - Dan and Annette Janssen

22 West - Clint and Jamie Klaassen
Middle - Travis and Joanne Klaassen
East - Dave and Donna Kleinwolterink

8 West - John and Jan Juffer
Middle - Alan and Lacey Julius/family
East - Matt and Missy Julius/family

29 West - Dr. Greg and Deb Kusters
Middle - Mitch and Abby Kreykes/family
East - Charles and Katha Kruger

15 West - Dennis and Dar Jurgens
Middle - Ethel Jurgens and Karen Jurgens
East - Kevin and Laurel Klaassen/family



9:00am Nursery October

1: Ashley Heronimus and Diane Langstraat
8: Kim and Alex Mc Dougall
15: Pam Vande Hoef and Jim Boeke
22: Marcia Van Ruler and Jodene Kruse
29: Kathy Verdoorn and Lesa Stofferan



11:00 am Nursery October

1: Karen Honken and Amy Dykstra
8: Chrissy Ackerman and Heather Tangeman
15: Melissa and Kalie De Boer
22: Kathy Runia and Abby Kreykes
29: Wendy and Jahlyn De Jong

Sunday School Nursery for October

Oct. 1: Tami Tracy and Peg Van Kley

15: Ellen Schram and Jan Henrichs

29: Megan Loerts and Luella Eggink

8: Pam Vande Hoef and Ruth Ann Wiersma

22: Lana Hibma and Sandy Lamfers

Library Volunteers



Oct. 1: Mary Hustoft
8: Jan Juffer
15: Jeannette Juffer
22: Jill Leusink
29: Leona Mendering

ONE OF THE
GREATEST GIFTS
YOU CAN GIVE IS
YOUR TIME

#VOLUNTEER

Coffee Servers for October



- 1: Jim and Pauline Van Engen
8: Keith and Janelle Van Drunen
15: Ger and Barb Van Diepen

- 22: Duane and Pam Vande Hoef
29: Lawrence and Ruth Ann Wiersma



Children and Worship Leaders/Helpers for October

Cornerstone Service 9:00am

- 1: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper: Family of Olivia Daiker
8: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper: Family of Grace Hoekstra
15: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper: Family of Brynna Loerts
22: Leader: Annette Janssen
Helper: Chris Schouten
29: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper: Kathy Verdoorn

Open Door Service 11:00

- 1: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper: Family of Hadlie Town
8: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper: Family of Breanna Ross
15: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper: Family of Logan Ver Steeg
22: Leader: Annette Janssen
Helper:
29: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper:



Faith
is like
WiFi



It's invisible,
but it has the power
to connect you
to what you need.

After Church Greeters for October



1 SE: Paul Vander Linden
C: John Van Diepen
SW: Pastor Luke
BE: Curt Van Kley
BW: Harvey Van Ruler

15 SE: Pastor Luke
C: Heath DeJong
SW: Ron Dykstra
BE: Harold Ernst
BW: Henry Fisher

29 SE: Dale Honken
C: Dan Janssen
SW: Pastor Luke
BE: Greg Kusters
BW: Arnie Langstraat

8 SE: Larry Verdoorn
C: Pastor Luke
SW: Lawrence Wiersma
BE: John Bartles
BW: Marcus De Boer

22 SE: Stan Gaalswyk
C: Pastor Luke
SW: Lennis Harberts
BE: Ed Harskamp
BW: Bill Hartzell

Elders in Prayer Room for October

10:00 am

1: Heath
8: Marcus
15: Lawrence
22: Dale
29: Stan

12:00 pm

1: Stan
8: Marcus
15: Lawrence
22: Dale
29: Cal



October Faith In Action:

Center of Hope,

Coat Drive.

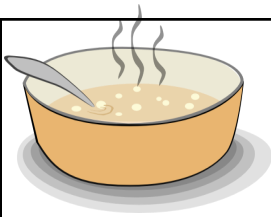
Clean your closets and bring any winter coats, scarves, mittens and caps, that are in good shape, to church. They will be put to good use.



October Willing Hands Group



Willing Hands Group #4 will be responsible for services during the month of **October**. Co-chairpersons are Karen and Dale Honken and Marcia and Dick Oldenkamp.



Fall Soup and Pie Supper!!!

October 11, 2017

Serving from 5pm-7pm

Come out and enjoy a variety of soups,
BBQs and various Pies and Desserts

***Carryouts Available!!**



Coffee With the Pastor!!

Come join Pastor Luke
(and Brenda) for coffee
at 9 am on October 4th.
We would love to see
you all!



Trivia Time!!!

1. How old was David when he was anointed King of Israel?
2. Which disciples witnessed Jesus' Transfiguration?
3. In Damascus, whose sight was restored by Ananias?
4. To whom did Jesus say, "Get thee behind me, Satan"?



**Mothers
Together**
With God in the Middle

Do you ever wish you
had a place where you
could connect with oth-
ers who have experi-
enced the same par-
enting issues that you
have? Want some time to relax, recharge
and make new friends? Then Mothers To-
gether 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!!



FRC is responsible for
Meals on Wheels Oct 16-
27th. See the sheet on the
information center to get
signed up to help out

*"Remember who you are. Don't compromise for anyone, for any reason. You
are a child of the Almighty God. Live that truth."*

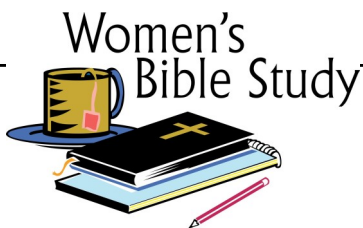
-Lysa Terkeurst



ANY EARLY CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS???

Now is a great time to start shopping for items for the shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child. First Reformed will be once again collecting gift-filled shoe boxes that will help spread the Good News of God's love worldwide. Shoe boxes are filled with small toys and other gifts and then distributed by Samaritan's Purse to children in poverty throughout the world. Last year First Reformed Church blessed 227 children with shoebox gifts! Boxes will be due in church 11/19/17. You can start shopping now!!!!

There will once again be the opportunity to volunteer at the Samaritan's Purse Processing Center in Minneapolis where you can experience the magnitude of this ministry. The registration at the processing center is not yet open but details will be shared when available.

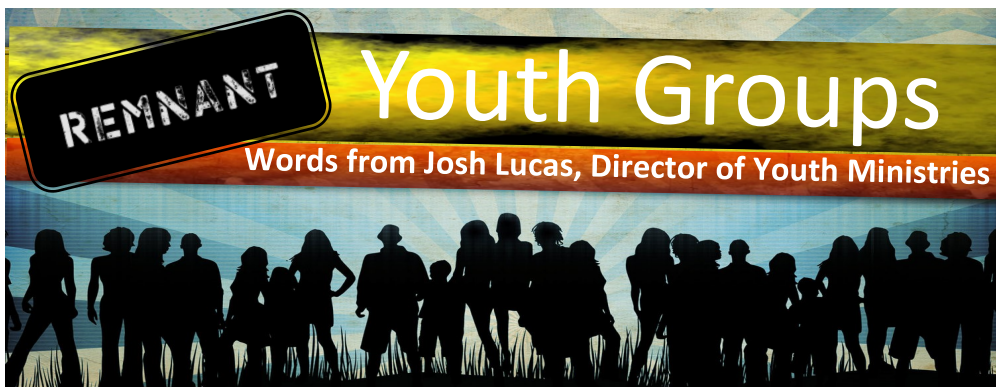


Women's Bible Study

Faith Bible Study, who meets the third Monday of most months, will meet on **Monday, October 16** at 9:00 am in the Library. Leader: Luella Eggink; Hostess: Imogene Rasmussen. Come join us as we discuss, "If I'm Living Right, Then Why Do I Hurt So Much?," from the book 1&2 Peter And Jude by Carolyn Nystrom. Scripture for the lesson is: 1 Peter 3:8-22.

Patience Bible Study, who also meets every third Monday of most months, will meet on **Monday, October 16** at 4:00 pm. The leader will be Barb Van Diepen and hostess will be Jan Juffer. We will be studying the lesson "God's timing - and Ours" from the book End Times by R. Paul Stevens. Scripture for the lesson is: Joel 2:12-32. 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 7:00pm**. 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.



Hello First Reformed Church! Here are a couple of updates that are happening in Remnant! First, by the time this letter is published we should be finished with our first fundraiser of the year: Sub Sale. With the money, we raised there we hope to put it towards a mission trip this upcoming year. Second, we are going through a study of the entire Bible right now! We have started in Genesis, and we will be moving on down from there through all of the many different books of the Bible. I felt convicted to do a study of the Reformed Church's theology, because I want to make sure these students understand the beliefs that we hold as a church, and to show them why we believe those things.

That is what we are doing right now as a group, but here is what we plan on doing. With the Junior High group, I have been doing research and prayer about, "Power Connection." Which is a Junior High version of Rocky Mountain High. Our hope and prayer is that we can attend that event this upcoming summer. There is even a work week before the event where we can go, and serve in the community where the event will be located. If anyone wants more information on that please feel free to ask me anytime. With the high school group, we are looking at possibly taking the students to Houston or even Florida to help in the aid of those affected by the hurricanes.

In conclusion, I am honored to be here in Sibley, and to serve you and God in this youth group. We are truly blessed to have a great group of students that we have right now. I just want to say thank you for all of the support you have shown me, my wife, the youth group sponsors, and of course the youth group. The Lord bless you, and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

With love and joy,

Josh Lucas





Pray For God's People

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1: Pray for our Church | 17. Reka Post |
| 2: Cliff & Linda Mehls; Jessica, Evan | 18. Lavonne Prins |
| 3: Regina Meyer; Peter, Clara, Andrea | 19. Junior & Imogene Rasmussen |
| 4: Katilin Michelson | 20. Daren Rockman; Hunter, Gannon |
| 5: Keith & Brenda Michelson; Kevin, Shanno | 21. Pray For Our College Students |
| 6: Steve & Lynn Mulder; Alex, Kaitlyn | 22. Pray for our Church |
| 7: Pray for our College Students | 23. Marlin Roelfs |
| 8: Pray for our Church | 24. Cal & Kathy Runia |
| 9: Dave & Dawn Myers; Elizabeth, Luke | 25. Marlin & Kathy Runia; Jacob, Matthew |
| 10: Richard & Marcia Oldenkamp | 26: Marvin & Janice Runia |
| 11: Vanessa Odens; Gracie, Landon | 27: Dr. Brian & Heidi Sayler; Garrett, Madeline, Grace, Levi, Elijah |
| 12: Lyle Peelen | 28: Pray for our College Students |
| 13: Marlys Pietz | 29: Pray for our Church |
| 14: Pray for our College Students | 30: Eric Schiphoff |
| 15: Pray for our Church | 31: Hugh Schiphoff |
| 16: Brenda Post; Ethan | |

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 A
Prayer
WARRIOR

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



October

Sun	Mon	Tue	W
1 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 9am Cornerstone *Senior Choir will sing 10 am Coffee/Prayer Time 10am Sunday School 11 am Open Door	2 7 pm Monday Night Women's Bible Study	3 8:30 am Quilters	4 9 am Coffee with Friends 6:30-7:30pm Bible Study 6:30-7:15 pm Men's Ministry 7:15-8:30 pm Holy Spirit
8 9am Cornerstone 10 am Coffee/Prayer Time 10am Sunday School 11 am Open Door	9 7 pm Monday Night Women's Bible Study	10 8:30 am Quilters 6:30 Set up for Soup and Pie	11 9 am Mothers Tea 5-7pm Soup and Sandwiches 6:30-7:30pm Bible Study 6:30-7:15 pm Men's Ministry 7:15-8:30 pm Holy Spirit
15 9am Cornerstone *Senior Choir will sing 10 am Coffee/Prayer Time 10am Sunday School 11 am Open Door	16 9 am Faith Bible Study 4pm Patience Bible Study 7 pm Consistory Meeting 7 pm Monday Night Women's Bible Study	17 8:30 am Quilters	18 6:30-7:30pm Bible Study 6:30-7:15 pm Men's Ministry 7:15-8:30 pm Holy Spirit
22 9am Cornerstone 10 am Coffee/Prayer Time 10am Sunday School 11 am Open Door	23 7 pm Monday Night Women's Bible Study	24 8:30 am Quilters	25 9 am Mothers Tea 6:30-7:30pm Bible Study 6:30-7:15 pm Men's Ministry 7:15-8:30 pm Holy Spirit
29 Norm Van Beek will lead us in worship today. 9am Cornerstone 10 am Coffee/Prayer Time 10am Sunday School 11 am Open Door	30 7 pm Monday Night Women's Bible Study	31 8:30 am Quilters	

er 2017



Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
With the Pastor ble Cl. G.1-5 MS Remnant S Remnant	5	6 Operation Christmas Child Processing Center Registrations Open	7 Kaitlin Michelson and Ryan Sederquest Wedding
Together d Pie Supper ble Cl. G.1-5 MS Remnant S Remnant	12	13	14
ble Cl. G.1-5 MS Remnant S Remnant	19	20	21
Together ble Cl. G.1-5 MS Remnant S Remnant	26	27	28

October Celebrations



~~Birthday's~~

1. Russell Gaalswyk
Katie Kruger
2. Leona Meendering
Joanne Klaassen
Peg Van Kley
4. Eugene Groen
Gretchen Bartelson
Jori Leusink
5. Pam Kruger
Mike Anderson
6. Karen Doorenbos
7. Marcus De Boer

8. Jane Buysman
Harvey Van Ruler
Alecia Martinez
Megan Block
9. Marian Zevenbergen
Renae Wolter
Addison Mc Dyer
Logan Ver Steeg
10. Ethel Jurgens
Carol Iedema
Ken Heronimus
Gina Jacobsma
11. Britta Harberts
Marlin Runia
Marissa Ackerman
- 12 Dr. Greg Kusters
- 13 Chelsey Harberts
Lampen
Jerry Bosma
- 14 Cliff Mehls

- 15 Nathan Kraayenbrink
- 16 Elijah Sayler
Levi Sayler
- 17 Marlys Brink
- 18 Jason Jacobsma
- 22 Peter Meyer
Elizabeth Hibma
- 23 Halle Block
- 26 Anna Kusters
- 27 Pauline Van Engen
- 29 Janice Runia
LeRoy Stevenson
Jodie Kruger
- 30 Duane Vande Hoef
- 31 Cole Dykstra



~~Anniversaries~~

- 02 Cory & Amy Dykstra-18 years
- 05 Gary & Sandy De Vries—44 years
- 06 Jerry & Sylvia Bosma-56 years
- 10 Dale & Marilyn De Boer—55 years
- 11 Joe & Nisa de Boom—14 years
- 20 Terry & Chrissy Ackerman- 10 years
- 20 Dwayne & Janice Heikes-38 years
- 20 Rod & Tami Vander Veen-27 years
- 21 Dan and Maureen Heilman-
- 23 Chad & Stacey Baker—13 years

If you would like to be included in our Birthday and Anniversary Calendar and do not see your name, please contact the office (sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com or 754-2783) and let us know your dates! We would love to recognize YOU on your special day! Thanks

From the library--

Fall is here, the days are getting shorter and those long evenings are a good time to settle down with an interesting book. Please be sure to visit the library for a book that suits your taste.

One new addition to our library is LEAD...FOR GOD'SAKE. It is a parable for finding the heart of leadership written by Todd G. Gongwer. Following is what is written on the inside of the cover "Although he's one of the most successful high school basketball coaches in Kentucky's history Steve Rocker, for the first time in his life, is falling short of expectations. His players have lost their will to win, their love for their teammates, and their passion to play. Coach Rocker's motivational methods that have always worked before---and have resulted in his success---are failing, and he doesn't know why.

Struggling to understand what's happening Coach seeks the counsel of one of his most successful friends, CEO. Grant Steffin, who, while fighting his own battles, offers advice based on his own leadership. Coach Rocker also stumbles upon some unexpected insight from, of all people, Joe Taylor, the high school janitor.

As Coach's season spirals downward, and as he continues to interact with these two intriguing men, the "why" questions become louder and louder in his head. Why does he do what he does? Or for that matter, why does he even exist. These questions eventually push him to go deeper into his own heart than he ever imagined possible to determine his purpose not only in leadership but also in life."



Sportsmen's Devotional

Bible Study Verses

Colossians 3:12-14

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (NIV)



Thoughts

I recall a fascinating experience while bow hunting in Minnesota. I was in my deer stand when I heard quite a commotion in the woods. The leaves were rustling, twigs snapping, accompanied by clashing sounds. I came down from my stand and headed toward the commotion. Two big Whitetail bucks, 14 and 10 pointers, had locked horns and were struggling to get apart. I tried to get close enough to get a shot, but they pulled apart and took off in the woods.

Even more fascinating are the Bighorn Sheep rams that have head-to-head combat. They rear back on their hind legs, then drop to all fours and charge each other at speeds greater than 20 mph. Fortunately, they have double-layered skulls shored with struts of bone for battle protection. They also have a massive tendon linking the skull and spine to help the head pivot and recoil from the blows.

These above mentioned displays of aggression are typical in the animal kingdom to prove dominance hierarchy.

Action Point

God made us in His image and in His likeness. We don't have to fight for a position in a hierarchy of creation. We have Christ as our role model of love.

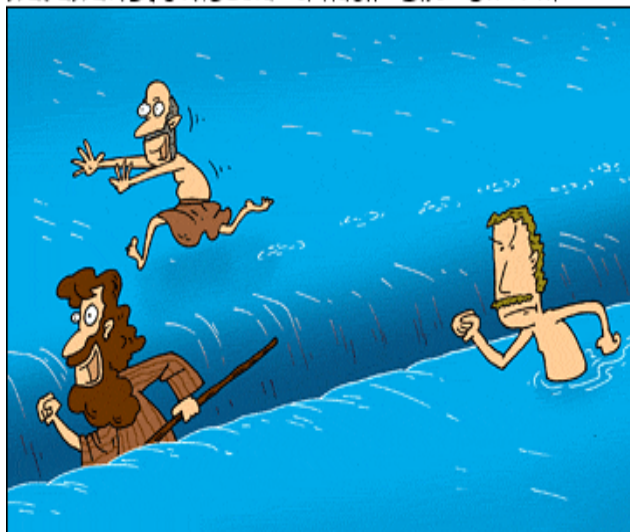
To be controlling, abusive and dominant in a marriage, or in any other relationship, is not what God had in mind for us. "Clothe yourselves" with Christ-like attributes.

Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

Come to the Wind River Range of Wyoming and see the largest herd of Bighorn Sheep in North America.

Trivia Time Answers!!!

1: 30 years (2 Samuel 5:4), **2:** Peter, James & John (Matthew 17:1-2, Mark 9:2, Luke 9:28-29)
3: Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:17-18), **4:** Peter (Matthew 16:23 & Mark 8:33) and Satan (Luke 4:8)



Thanks to Colin Nelson

12-14-2009

HOZEKIAH FOUND THIS RACE WITH MOSES AND PETER TO BE GROSSLY UNFAIR

DAAM

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7

PLSOGE

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6 15 11 4

IETR

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8 2 12 10

REAGV

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1 13 3 16

GIHH

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14 5 9

--	--	--	--

1 2 3 4

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5 6 7

--	--	--

8 9 10

--	--	--	--	--	--

11 12 13 14 15 16

For example, F → → ↓ = Q

Puzzle #1

1. S ← ← ↑ = ____

2. G ↓ ↓ ← = ____

3. L → ↑ ↑ ↑ = ____

4. O ↑ ↑ → = ____

5. F → → ↑ = ____

6. J → → → = ____

7. V ↓ ↓ ← = ____

8. Z ↑ → ↑ → = ____

9. P ← ← ↑ = ____

10. Q ↓ ← ← = ____

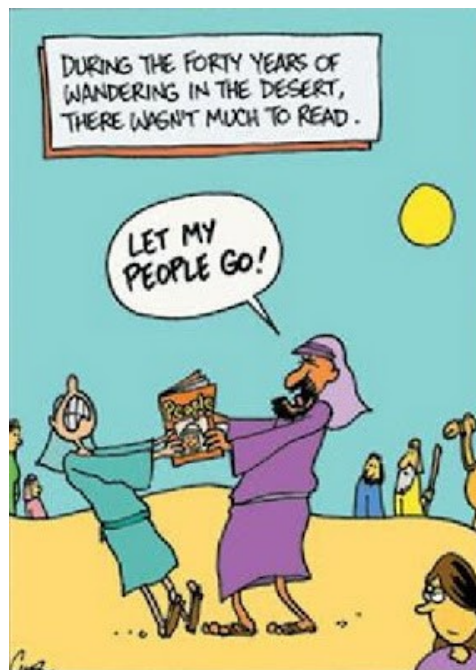
11. M ↓ ↓ → = ____

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

Jesus said, "I am ____ _"

4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 ...

Do you know where this verse is located?





MEET OUR MISSIONARIES

Rowland and Jane Van Es

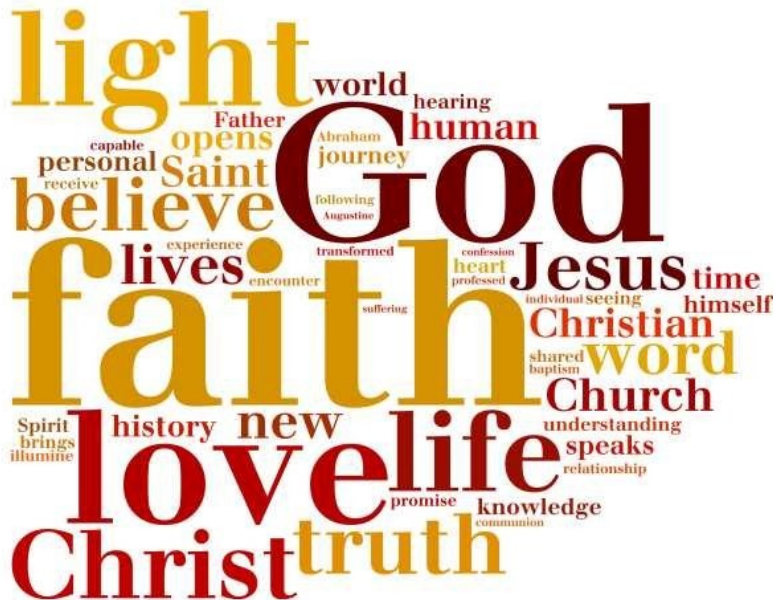
Dear Friends and Supporters, It is exciting to see the good work that God is doing in Kenya through the faithful service of our students. As newly appointed Head of Department for practical and pastoral studies, Rowland has had more opportunities to see the work that our students, and by extension, the church in Kenya is doing. Every student does a three month supervised field assignment in a church, school, hospital or a pris-

on. Recently we visited five students who are busy with their field assignments and we wanted to share their stories with you. John was working in a tin office in Voi where the Anglicans are building a new cathedral; he also attends city council meetings and visits inmates in the prison next door. Three students were working in schools: Mark is in a primary school where he does Christian Religious Education (CRE) using songs & plays. When we visited it was Gen 3: Satan is a liar! Constance is the first female priest in her parish which also includes a local high school that she visits twice a week while Doris works in an Anglican run high school where she counsels teenage boys and girls about faith and life. The day we visited, the lesson was on having self-esteem and self-confidence to do your best at all times. But Hilton is the one I really want to tell you about... His church is south of Voi at the foot of a mountain that has a church and a school on top started by missionaries in 1893. Despite this long history of mission and evangelism there are still many who have not heard the gospel. Hilton first took me to a primary school at the bottom of the mountain where he is starting a new church. The members are donating the materials and doing the work themselves. So far they just have some walls. Then he took me to a church with walls and a roof called the "Church of the Cactus" because they started by worshipping in the shade of a large cactus tree. Finally he took me to the church where he lives, a humble mud and wood affair where the members are mostly women and children. He has no electricity except what he gets from a small solar panel, just enough to read one of his 6 books. He doesn't go outside at night because he is afraid of the hyenas and lions and elephants that live there. Instead of being discouraged as most of us would, Hilton is happy and excited about all the potential. He says he is the luckiest evangelist in the diocese because he has the biggest territory to work with. Instead of worrying about how many are not coming to church, he is enthusiastic about the one dozen who do and those come for extra prayer services. His bishop is so happy with his work and how he rose to the challenge that Hilton will keep working there even after his three month field assignment is over. Aside from teaching hundreds of BD students like Hilton and the others we visited, St Paul's also teaches more than a from Rowland and Jane Van Es in Kenya August 2017 John in his tin office Doris with high school students Hilton by his mud church Jane and Rowland Van Es's ministry At St. Paul's University, an ecumenical school that has trained people for ministry since 1903, Rowland teaches Old Testament introduction and interpretation and business ethics, and Jane teaches psychology and sociology to bachelor of divinity students and a master's level course in caring for people with HIV/AIDS. Learn more at www.rca.org/vanes. thousand Business Students, giving them required courses like Christian World view and Christian Business Ethics. There are also many students studying Communications, Education and Development. All of them

are encouraged to see their chosen work as God's work for them to do as they seek to live out St. Paul's motto: "Servants of God and Humanity." Jane, who teaches students studying counselling and social work, has also seen many of her students transformed by their experience at St. Paul. One of her recent graduates, Alex, gave a nice testimony in chapel about how much St Paul's helped him personally and spiritually and how all that he learned will help him serve others who need counselling for various addictions and other real life issues. As we begin a new academic year in September there are many students who struggle to find the necessary funds to come to St. Paul's. Most receive a work-study grant that covers half of their tuition, room and board at St Paul's University (about \$1,000 per semester). To donate online, please refer to our webpage at www.rca.org/vanes and click on St. Paul's Scholarships. Or you can send your gift to the Reformed Church in America, 4500 60th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512 – please indicate St. Paul's Scholarships in the memo portion of your check. Your Co-workers in Christ, Jane and Rowland Van Es St. Paul's University and RCA Global Mission

ABOUT ROWLAND JR. & JANE VAN ES

St. Paul's University in Limuru, Kenya, is an international and ecumenical institution that prepares men and women for ministry in the Christian church and in society. Founded in 1903 as a divinity school, St. Paul's recently expanded to become a Christian university. In addition to doing theological studies, students can now earn a bachelor's degree in business administration. Rowland Van Es Jr., who has training in economics and theology, teaches in both departments. Jane teaches psychology and sociology to students studying theology, counseling and social work in the new faculty of social sciences. Rowland and Jane served previously in Sierra Leone, Malawi, and the Gambia. They have two daughters, Jenna and Michelle.





CONSISTORY MINUTES

October 18, 2017

6:00 pm

Administrative Meeting 6:00 pm

Present: Dr. Brian Sayler, Marcus De Boer, Kevin Klaassen, Charlie Kuhl, Stan Gaalswyk, Pastor Luke Schouten and Brenda Post. Absent: Heath De Jong

- 165. Pastor Luke opened the meeting with prayer.
- 166. Discussion of the Proposed 2018 Budget was held.
- 167. Pastor Luke closed with prayer.

Elders Meeting 7:45 pm

7 present, a Quorum

- 168. Pastor Luke opened the meeting with prayer.
- 169. The Constitutional Question was asked, "Are there any members needing spiritual care?"
Elders reported on various members within their calling districts. Discussion was held on members of the church who are in need of or have received spiritual care.
- 170. MMSC to remove the following from the inactive membership roll at their request: Travis Dykstra, Eugene and Merilyce Ver Steeg, Luz Gomez, Dave and Tracie Johnson, Kate lyn Johnson, Pedro and Lorena Ozazaco,
- 171. MMSC to have one church service at 9 am on December 10th The Sunday School Christmas Program will be held at 11 am. Alternated weather date will be December 17th.
- 172. MMSC to adjourn following closing prayer by Dale Honken.

173. Pastor Luke opened the meeting by reading scripture from 1 Corinthians 12:17-20 and offering prayer.
174. Ministry Teams gave various reports.
- Outreach:** No Report
 - Worship:** No Report
 - Property:** Reported on Concrete work. New bulbs were ordered for the projector. Water heater at church discussed.
 - Education:** Additional Teachers will be needed after the first 5-week unit is completed.
 - Congregational Care:** No Report
 - Youth Ministries:** No Report
 - Administrative:** Budget will be presented.
175. Elder nominations will begin Sunday, September 24, 2017.
176. Reviewed the budget proposed for 2018.
177. MMSC to have a second offering to give to Destiny Church in Naples, FL. The church will purchase food and supplies for Avalon Elementary students affected by Hurricane Irma.
178. MMSC to adjourn following closing prayer by Pastor Luke.

"If you believe in a God who controls the big things, you have to believe in a God who controls the little things. It is we, of course, to whom things look 'little' or 'big'."

-Elisabeth Elliot



Flexing Your Gratitude Muscles

By: Ruth Boven

Scripture Reading — Luke 17:11-19

He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—
and he was a Samaritan. — [Luke 17:16](#)

I'm a bit of a health nut. I exercise regularly. As I age, I'm noticing how quickly my muscles weaken when I don't use them for a while. It's often said that if you don't use them, you lose them. It's helpful to think of gratitude in that way too.

Gratitude is not an inborn trait that some have and -others don't. Rather, it's more like a muscle that can be strengthened over time. And being intentional about exercising it can be critical to becoming a more grateful person.

We don't know much about the ten lepers that Jesus healed. We know that the one who returned and gave thanks was a Samaritan. Luke may have included that detail because the Samaritans were looked down on by the Jews of Jesus' day. But this Samaritan demonstrated a level of gratitude that the other lepers didn't show.

At a time when things like entitlement, accusation, venting -anger, and violence seem to have taken hold of our culture, what kind of impact might gratitude have? Saying "I'm grateful" or "Thank you" does not simply express our thanksgiving but actually gives voice to a countercultural witness that has the power to push back the tide of resentment among us. Then there is room for a fresh appreciation of God's renewing, saving grace.

Are you keeping your gratitude muscles in shape?

Prayer

Gracious God, receive our thanks for your healing touch and power in our lives. In the name of Jesus, help us remember all that you do for us each day. Amen.

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