



Building God's kingdom one life at a time.

First Reformed Church
1101 7th Street, Sheldon IA
712-324-2130

May 2025



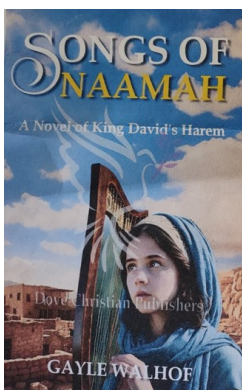
2025 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

WHEN: Thursday, May 1
TIME: 6:30 PM
WHERE: Bethel Reformed Church

Come join in a chorus of worship and prayer. We will gather around the theme of "Hope for the Generations".

Sponsored by: Sheldon Area Ministerial, Rise Ministries and Honor God Ministries

Ladies! Plan to attend **Bible League's Spring Salad Luncheon** with your friends on Monday, May 5 at Rock Valley First Christian Reformed Church (1401 16th Street, Rock Valley IA). *Please bring one salad for every four ladies in your group.* The Luncheon begins at 11:30 AM; featured speaker is Gayle Walhof who will tell of her 4-year journey in publishing her book "Songs of Naamah – A Novel of King David's Harem". Updates from BLI will be given, and a freewill donation will be received. Join us for this FUN event!



MOTHER'S DAY BOUQUET

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 11. We are again putting a bouquet of carnations together to honor our mothers and other special women in our lives. It seems that everything costs more today, even flowers!

A suggested donation of \$5/name is being asked. Any funds collected over the cost of the flowers will go to Beth Blankers Borgens and her work with CRU.

Please get your money to the church office by Monday, May 5.

The flowers will go to Fieldcrest after the May 11 service.

Make checks out to First Reformed RCWM.



DATE: Thursday, May 8
TIME: 4:30-6:00 PM
LOCATION: Living Water Church

Bring a box with you to pick up your groceries.



"We Care. For Everyone." The Sheldon Community Ambulance Team (SCAT) is having their Annual Fundraiser Supper serving Taverns, Coney Dogs or Hotdogs with potato salad, strawberry fluff, a homemade treat & drink. The supper is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 20, 2025 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM** at the Crossroads Pavilion Event Center. A freewill offering will be taken so no tickets will be sold. If you are unable to attend, donations are welcome. The proceeds raised during this event will be directed toward hand-held radios and scoop stretchers.

Are you interested in becoming an EMT and joining our team of volunteers? Ask us about it! We need YOU!!



**Sheldon Area
 Unity Meal**



WHEN: Monday, May 19
TIME: 5:30-6:30 PM
WHERE: Living Water Community Church

A come and go buffet will be served. A bag of groceries is available to take home with you after you have had your meal. Come join us for some food & fellowship.

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 26th for Memorial Day. Call Pastor Paul in case of an emergency.



Important Dates

- ♦ May 18 - last day of Sunday School
- ♦ May 25 - No Children & Worship

Local Graduation Dates and Times

Western Christian High School: Tuesday, May 20 @ 7 PM
Sheldon Community High School: Sunday, May 25 @ 2 PM
MOC-FV High School: Sunday, May 25 @ 2 PM

Children & Worship Summer Schedule

We will be having C&W on ...

- ♦ June 1
- ♦ June 8
- ♦ June 15
- ♦ June 22
- ♦ June 29
- ♦ July 13
- ♦ July 20
- ♦ July 27

There will be no C&W on July 6 (VBS week) or during the month of August.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER YOUR KIDS FOR SUMMER CAMP AT INSPIRATION HILLS

Brochures are on a table in the Fellowship Hall or visit inspirationhills.org to review the camp offerings that are still available and register. FRC will cover half the cost of camp for your child and one of his or her friends.

CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS TO CHURCH DIRECTORY

- *Ben & Callie (Nordahl) Hoelker - she remarried
- *Justin & *Kellye Kleinhesselink
[Harper, Beckam & Willow]
3055 Nest Avenue, Sheldon
Phones: K: 712.348.5599 J: 712.324.1232
Email: kellyemariel@gmail.com
- *Coreen Van Sloten
correct phone #: 712.631.4105
- Merlin Beermann died
- Gavin De Hoogh
3115 Marsh Avenue, Sheldon
Phone: 712.344.0261
- Bev Heemstra's new address
1305 Jeppeson Road, Apt. 205, Milford, IA 51351
- Ethan Mouw's new address
528 16th Street, Sheldon
- Tim & Wendy Peelen no longer have their landline
712.729.5210
- Ingetta Tutje no longer has her landline
712.324.2364
- Loretta Vander Linden's new phone number
712.344.2890
- Logan Michael Van Meeteren's new address
1006 7th Street, Sheldon

* denotes an adherent



Join us

VBS 2025
July 6-9
5:30-8:30pm

Register here:



Share this with coworkers, family, neighbors and friends. Each evening includes a meal for the kids. If you have any questions, feel free to send an email to frcsecretary@outlook.com or call the church office at 712.324.2130.

would you like to help with VBS

There is a sign-up sheet on the wall by the VBS table in the Fellowship Hall. If you can only volunteer for part of the time, we still need you! Come and help "Magnify the Lord" during this important children's ministry to kids in our church and the surrounding communities!

May 1 Marie Westra - 96
 Jamie Elgersma
 May 2 Sheryl Alons
 Brent Kamstra
 May 3 Elmer Den Hartog - 94
 Larry Van Meeteren
 Deb Ten Clay
 Jesse Snyder
 May 4 Lexie Merley
 May 5 Harriet Van Meeteren
 Ed Van Meeteren
 Harlan Kuyper
 Sheila Van Beek
 May 6 Jennifer Groote
 Madeline Schaeffer
 May 7 Deann Kragt
 Molly Sauer
 Mitch Jensen
 May 8 Brad Vander Pol
 May 9 Gladys Van Veldhuizen
 Sheila Zanela
 Gina De Hoogh
 Kendra Kamstra
 May 11 Lorrie Struyk
 May 12 Alex Bork
 Brock De Groot
 May 13 Randy Fonkert
 May 15 Jessica Webb
 Remington Drenkow
 May 16 Dixon Van Meeteren
 Dalton Holtrop
 Paisley Sauer
 May 17 Betty Van Der Sloot
 Cheryl Van Meeteren
 May 18 Jan Dykshoorn
 Linda Winkel



May 19 Gerald Van Meeteren
 Dan Dykstra
 Jason Groendyke
 May 20 Ed Alons
 Jason Bork
 Jennifer Van
 Regenmorter
 May 21 Peggy Elgersma
 May 23 Andy Kanengieter - 98
 Kristi Meyer
 Audrey Punt
 May 24 Gary Heerde
 Wendy Vander Plaats
 Rhett Peters
 May 25 Brenda Godbersen
 Shantel Oostra
 Rory Reinking
 May 27 Diana Verberg
 Majestic (Holtrop)
 Wynia
 May 28 Jim Nieuwendorp
 May 30 Julia Van Regenmorter
 May 31 Beth (Blankers)
 Borgens



May 5 John & Myrna Wolfswinkel - 54
 May 6 Art & Jo Franken - 19
 May 11 Jesse & Brittany Snyder - 12
 May 12 Joel & Katlyn Crooks - 7
 May 13 Ed & Shirley Jager - 60
 May 17 Brent & Melissa Mouw - 28
 Noah & Taylea Sterk - 1
 May 23 Larry & Marsha Sterk - 52
 Greg & Paula Sawyer - 44
 May 24 Marty & Katie Van Peursem - 11
 May 25 Matt & Rachel Jurgens - 12
 May 26 Zach & Jen Sawyer - 13
 May 27 Tim & Wendy Peelen - 44
 May 28 Tyler & Georgia Walker - 9
 May 29 Arlan & Jane Lode - 62



Thank you for all the generosity of many who contributed to the baskets full of gifts to celebrate the births of Cora and Cale! Also, thanks for the thoughts and prayers. We are loving our new additions and adjusting to being a family of six.

Thank you!
 Joel & Katlyn Crooks

First Reformed Church

Sending you a Thank You for being a faithful partner as we serve throughout Latin America with IBAC. We could not mobilize Kingdom resources to equip Kingdom leaders without you!

Thank you!
 Jay & Amy Grooters

Thank you to the Women to Women committee for organizing the Pizza & Puzzle Event. It was a wonderful change of pace and a great way to spend the afternoon. We hope you do this again!

Thanks so much,
 Caitie, Erin, Julianna & Wendy

A HUGE thanks to the people who have prepared and served Family Night meals and cleaned up after them - Erica J, Linda & Bob S, Gladys & Rod K, Jodi & Matt V, Sarah VM, JoElyn TC, Reka & AJ dB, and Wally W. Their dedication and effort is greatly appreciated by all! Also thanks to all the people that prepared desserts for these meals.

~ FRC staff

GENERAL FUND – APRIL 2025

	Mar 25	Jan - Mar 25	Annual Budget
Beginning Balance	\$15,443.69		
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
General Fund	54,004.61	131,163.39	586,110.06
Interest Income	57.36	172.98	
Total Income	54,061.97	131,336.37	586,110.06
Gross Profit	54,061.97	131,336.37	586,110.06
Expense			
Alliance Dues	0.00	0.00	19,000.00
Congregational Care	455.09	1,807.51	17,000.00
Education	-600.51	767.96	20,150.00
Facilities & Grounds	2,698.19	12,781.16	128,000.00
General and Consistory	2,073.04	6,845.89	15,600.00
Office	3,666.03	6,044.21	21,645.00
Outreach	1,116.62	3,607.09	24,300.00
Payroll Expenses	21,419.98	76,121.87	331,365.06
Transfer Out	0.00	20,000.00	
Worship	913.98	1,073.33	4,100.00
Youth Groups	14.97	355.16	4,950.00
Total Expense	31,757.39	129,404.18	586,110.06
Net Ordinary Income	22,304.58	1,932.19	0.00
Net Cash Flow	22,304.58	1,932.19	0.00
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 37,748.27		

More Thank Yous

It's so comforting to know that many are praying for you when you are in the hospital. During my recent hospital stay, many of you were praying and many of you stopped by to pray with me. I want to thank each of you who came to the hospital to keep me company and all of you who prayed from wherever you were. God lifted me up out of illness and has allowed me to continue to carry on doing all the things I love to do. Thanks to Pastor Paul, many of our Elders and all the rest of you who let me know they cared. Also, thanks to a special young man, Sam Van Maaren, who came with Pastor Paul because he knew I would love to see him. I was very touched that young people like Sam are aware that they can also touch the hearts of others.

~ Marv Van Riesen

Thank you to everyone for all your prayers, cards, visits and food during my hospital stay following surgery and also during my recovery at home. Praise God for the successful surgery and for continued healing. All your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

~ Loretta Boender

BENEVOLENT FUND – APRIL 2025

	Jan - Mar 25	Budget
Beginning Cash Balance as of January 1, 2025	\$ 90,325.63	
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Benevolent Fund	10,247.98	187,250.00
Missions	1,000.00	
Sunday School	225.00	
Total Income	11,472.98	187,250.00
Gross Profit	11,472.98	187,250.00
Expense		
Commitments		
Beth (Blankers) Borgens/CRU	1,750.00	7,000.00
Bethesda Christian Counseling	0.00	4,000.00
GraceCovenantMinistry-Annville	1,750.00	7,000.00
Grooters, Jay & Amy-Costa Rica	1,750.00	7,000.00
Harlan Moss-SD Prison Ministry	1,750.00	7,000.00
Inspiration Hills	0.00	7,000.00
Jake & Brittany Korver	1,750.00	7,000.00
JoJo Bong-Asian Youth	0.00	3,500.00

Funny Church Bulletin Messages

From varietyreading.com/funny-stories/churchbulletins.php

- The sermon this morning: “Jesus Walks on Water.” The sermon tonight: “Searching for Jesus.”
- For those of you have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Sunday School: Children will be lead in sinning and Bible Study.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- Don't let worry kill you. Let the church help.
- Announcement in a church bulletin for a national Prayer and Fasting Conference: “The cost for attending the Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.”
- Potluck supper Sunday at 5 PM. Prayer and medication to follow.

BENEVOLENT FUND – CONTINUED

Smile from varietyreading.com

A little girl walked to and from school daily. Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to the elementary school. As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up along with thunder and lightning. The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school, and she herself feared that the electrical storm might harm her child. Following the roar of thunder, lightning, like a flaming sword, would cut through the sky. Full of concern, the mother quickly got into her car and drove along the route to her child's school. As she did so, she saw her little girl walking along, but at each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up and smile. Another and another were to follow quickly, and with each, the little girl would look at the streak of light and smile. When the mother's car drove up beside the child, she lowered the window and called to her. "What are you doing? Why do you keep stopping?" The child answered, "I am trying to look pretty; God keeps taking my picture." May God bless you today as you face the storms that come your way.

REMINDER: If you no longer have your landline, have moved, or changed your cell phone number, please call the church so we can update our church database. It is important that we keep our information as accurate as possible.

LOWER-LEVEL RENOVATION FUND

Lay Mission Fund	0.00	15,000.00
Love Inc	1,749.99	7,000.00
Mission & Service Projects	0.00	5,000.00
Mission to India-ChurchPlanters	1,875.00	7,500.00
Mission to India-Literacy Prog	625.00	2,500.00
Multiplication Network	0.00	3,500.00
Pascal,Sasha&Sara-Moldova	750.00	3,000.00
Reformed Church in America		
Brownell-Japan	1,750.00	7,000.00
Nicole Oppenorth-Nicaragua	1,750.00	7,000.00
Total Reformed Church in America	3,500.00	14,000.00
Rise Fest	5,000.00	5,000.00
Rise Ministries	1,750.00	7,000.00
SandalsOnSand Min (B Godbersen)	0.00	2,500.00
Sheldon Christian School	0.00	6,000.00
Talking Bibles	0.00	7,000.00
Touch of Hope Bibles	0.00	4,000.00
Touch of Hope Haiti	0.00	7,000.00
Vasileiadis,PavlosMeggan-Greece	1,750.00	7,000.00
Village Northwest Unlimited	0.00	6,000.00
Words of Hope	0.00	28,000.00
Total Commitments	25,749.99	186,500.00
RCA College Scholarships	750.00	750.00
YTD Offerings Paid Out	3,877.98	
Total Expense	30,377.97	187,250.00
Net Ordinary Income	-18,904.99	0.00
Net Cash Flow	-18,904.99	0.00
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 71,420.64	

COOL FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE

From factretriever.com

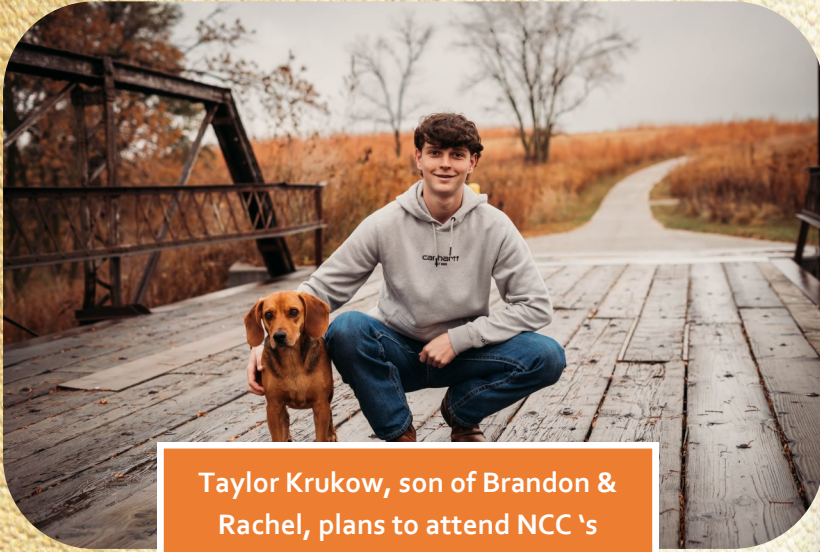
- Over 100 million copies of the Bible are sold each year.
 - The Bible was written by 40 authors.
 - The word "Trinity" is never mentioned.
 - Jesus had at least six siblings.
 - The Bible is the most stolen book.
 - The Old Testament has 929 chapters.
- The disciples were called Christians for the first time in Antioch.
- The full Bible has been translated into 532 languages. It has been partially translated into 2,883 languages.
- The shortest book in the Bible is Psalm 117, with just 2 verses.
- It took over 1000 years to write the Old Testament, the New Testament was written in a period of 50-75 years.
- The Bible takes place across three continents: Asia, Africa and Europe.

Mar 31, 25

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income	
General Fund	
Lower Level Renovation	222,922.99
Total General Fund	222,922.99
Total Income	222,922.99
Gross Profit	222,922.99
Expense	
Facilities & Grounds	
Building Improvements	
Lower Level Renovations	123,782.44
Total Building Improvements	123,782.44
Total Facilities & Grounds	123,782.44
Total Expense	123,782.44
Net Ordinary Income	99,140.55
Ending Cash Balance	99,140.55

2025 High School Graduates



Taylor Krukow, son of Brandon & Rachel, plans to attend NCC's power lineman course.



Shawn Vander Naald, son of Mark & Katie, plans to work for Interstates in Sioux Center following graduation.



Wesley Kruse, son of Rodney & Laura, plans to attend NCC to become a power lineman.



Joseph Freeman, son of Tyler & Nichole, plans to raise crops/cattle on the family farm & begin a career in soybean processing.

Olivia Van Maaren, daughter of Paul & Courtney Van Maaren plans to attend Northwestern College for 2 years, and then transfer to NCC to complete the pharmacy technician program.



Avery Autumn De Hoogh plans to attend Stewart School in Sioux Falls to complete the esthetics program.



Peyton Dekker, daughter of Kirk & Tina, plans to attend Morningside to play softball and study to be a radiological technician.

CONGRATULATIONS

What's Happening in FRC



EASTER
BRUNCH



Minutes of the Consistory Meeting – First Reformed Church, Sheldon, IA 04/10/2025

Those present:

Elders: Leon Kleinwolterink, Greg Sawyer, Brad Bosma, Larry Vander Plaats, Dixon Van Meeteren, Dan Dykstra, Randy Fonkert, Bob Stellinga, Mike Kleinwolterink

Deacons: Brandon Krukow, Evan De Hoogh, Nathan Punt, Jared Schaeffer, Brady Peters, Rodney Kruse, Tyler Drenkow, Marty Van Peurse

Those absent:

Elders:

Deacons: Cleiton Zanela

- A. Pastor Paul called the Meeting to order at 7:37 PM.
- B. Pastor Paul offered opening prayer and Devotions from Mark 8:31-33. The message is that Jesus deconstructs false beliefs and assumptions and reconstructs people towards himself and the truth.
- C. Approval of minutes from March 20, 2025.
 - 1. **Motion Made Supported & Carried (MMSC)** to approve.
- D. Celebrations and Thanksgivings were discussed.
 - 1. The church received a \$20,000 gift donated for the lower-level renovation.
 - 2. The Youth Service was well done – thank you to Caitie.
 - 3. Thank you to Connie Van Meeteren for leading the small group adult Bible study.
- E. Report from Deacons meeting-reported by Brady Peters.
- F. Report from Elders meeting-reported by Mike Kleinwolterink.
- G. Pastor's Report – Pastor Paul
 - 1. Seeking input from the consistory for strategic plan.
 - 2. By-law changes – the language for second consecutive terms for Elders and Deacons, as well has for committee members.
- H. Old Business:
 - 1. Dan Dykstra reported that the Gideon speaker will be John Kooiker on May 11.
- I. New Business: none
- J. Financial reports were provided by Evan De Hoogh.
 - 1. **MMSC** to approve.
- K. Committee Reports were discussed.
 - 1. **MMSC** to approve.
- L. Other Business: none
- M. Next Meeting: May 15, 2025 Prayer – Nathan Punt
- N. Adjourn: **MMSC** to adjourn at 8:15 PM.
- O. Closed with Dan Dykstra providing prayer.

God's Wings ~ from varietyreading.com

An article in National Geographic several years ago provided a penetrating picture of God's wings. After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he gently struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise.

She could have flown to safety but refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast.

Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live.

"He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge." - Psalm 91:4

2025 Ministry Teams Contact People

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Pastor Paul - President
Dan Dykstra - Vice President
Mike Kleinwolterink - Clerk
Evan De Hoogh - Chairman of Deacons
Brady Peters - Secretary of Deacons

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Nathan Punt - 712.449.9001
punt76@gmail.com

CALLING ELDER

Gary De Hoogh - 712.348.2647
gndehoogh@msn.com

CHURCH PRIVILEGE

Larry Vander Plaats - 712.348.4626
plaats58@yahoo.com

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Bob Stellinga - 712.348.3330
stell@nethtc.net

We Care -

Norma Van Gorp - 712.631.0977
rvangorp@netllc.net

ENDOWMENT FUND

Evan De Hoogh - 712.541.3521
evan@gecabinetryinc.com

MEMORIAL FUND

Evan De Hoogh - 712.541.3521
evan@gecabinetryinc.com

MISSION COMMITTEE

Rodney Kruse - 712.348.4232
rodneykruse@hotmail.com

NURSERY

Kelsey Cooper - 712.348.2636
kelseyd34@gmail.com

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Mike Kleinwolterink - 712.348.1161
standaide@premieronline.net

PRAYER CHAIN COORDINATOR

Brenda Godbersen - 712.348.0392
brendagodbersen@gmail.com

PULPIT SUPPLY

Dan Dykstra - 712-230-0379
faddjd@hotmail.com

SACRAMENTS

Dixon Van Meeteren - 712.324.1600
dixvm@nethtc.net

SAFETY & SECURITY

Larry Vander Plaats - 712.348.4626
plaats58@yahoo.com

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Brady Peters - 712.541.7640
brdyptrs@gmail.com

WOMEN TO WOMEN

Molly Sauer - 712.363.4268
pmsauer12@gmail.com

WORK GROUPS

Joyce Fedders - 712.539.9945
jfedders@nethtc.net



2025 SHEPHERDING TEAMS

First Reformed Church, Sheldon

The congregation is divided into nine groups - one for each Elder/Deacon pair. Your consistory shepherding team is responsible for keeping in regular contact with the families listed under their names. If you are experiencing some significant trial or illness or you may be involved in a crisis situation such as a job loss, major life change, or family death feel free to contact your Care Elder or Deacon. If your family has experienced a joyful occasion like the birth of a baby, the marriage of a son or daughter, a wedding anniversary, a promotion at work, or retirement, etc. contact your Care Elder or Deacon as well. In all these situations, an appropriate prayer to the Lord will be offered.

The names of your Care Elder & Deacon are located above group in which you fall.

Team 1: Bob Stellinga & Tyler Drenkow
Ed Alons – Gered De Hoogh

Team 2: Brad Bosma & Nathan Punt
Jim De Jong – Betty Gonnerman

Team 3: Leon Kleinwolterink & Marty Van Peursem
Johnny Granstra – Shane Jager

Team 4: Dixon Van Meeteren & Jared Schaeffer
Luke Jenness – Jaci Martens

Team 5: Larry Vander Plaats & Rodney Kruse
Murray Martens – Carol Pomerence

Team 6: Randy Fonkert & Cleiton Zanela
Caleb Popkes – Noah Sterk

Team 7: Dan Dykstra & Brady Peters
Roger Sterler – Norma Van Gorp

Team 8: Mike Kleinwolterink & Brandon Krukow
Lyle Van Heuvelen – Darlene Verrips

Team 9: Greg Sawyer & Evan De Hoogh
Marwin Vogel – Brad Zuetenhorst

**“Building God’s kingdom
one life at a time.”**
1 Peter 2:4-5

Church Contact Information

Church phone number: 712.324.2130

Email: frcsecretary@outlook.com



Important Church Information

- ◆ WEBSITE: www.sheldonfirstreformed.com
- ◆ WORSHIP VIDEO: www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/media/worshipservices.cfm
- ◆ BULLETIN: www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/media/weeklybulletin.cfm OR paper copies are available in bulletin box outside the north kitchen door along with the most recent Encore
- ◆ RADIO BROADCAST: Sundays at 10 AM on FM 100.7
- ◆ TV BROADCAST: Tuesdays at 4 PM on local cable channel 12
- ◆ FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/sheldonfirstreformed
- ◆ E-GIVING LINK: Text the word "SFRC" to the number [833.484.7253](tel:833.484.7253) or give online at www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/give
- ◆ TRADITIONAL GIVING: Mail to Sheldon First Reformed Church, 1101 7th Street, Sheldon, IA 51201 OR drop your offering in the slot on the church office door during the week
- ◆ MY CHURCH APP: Download on Google Play or the App Store OR text the words "SFRC APP" to the number [833.484.7253](tel:833.484.7253)
- ◆ PRAYER REQUESTS/PRAISES: Call the church office at 712.324.2130 or email Pastor Paul at paul@sheldonfirstreformed.com
- ◆ NEXT STEPS CODE: The QR code is on the bulletin cover. Using your smartphone device scan the code & it will bring you to a page that will take you to our Connection Card, Prayer Requests, or Giving.
- ◆ PARENTS: Children's bulletins are available at www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/media/children-s-bulletin.cfm.
- ◆ SUNDAY SCHOOL GUIDES: Pick up in the youth house.
- ◆ ALPHA TEENS & RCYF: Check the Remind App & Instagram for upcoming activities & any updates. To be added to the email list please email Caitie at caitie@sheldonfirstreformed.com.
- ◆ KIDS PROGRAMS: To keep up with what is going on with our kids' program, sign up to receive reminder text messages from FRC Kidz. Just text the following: **Text@ frckidz to the number 81010**
- ◆ DURING THE WEEK: The church is open from **8 AM-4 PM Monday - Thursday, and from 7 AM-12 PM on 2nd & 4th Fridays**. During the week you may use the north & south doors to get your mail or drop off offerings etc. in the office. You will need to ring the door bell (silver button) to the right of these doors to enter the church. Wendy will buzz you in from the office.
- ◆ SUNDAY MORNINGS: The church doors will lock at 9:30 AM. If you find the doors locked upon your arrival, go to the front/east door and a team member will welcome you into the church
- ◆ If you would like to receive church emails & don't currently receive them, please call the church at 324-2130 & provide Wendy with your email address. You may also fill out the connection card with this info & place it in the basket as you leave the sanctuary.
- ◆ If you have moved, made changes to your emails or phone numbers, please contact the church office with the updated information by calling 712.324.2130 or emailing frcsecretary@outlook.com.
- ◆ BULLETIN & NEWSLETTER ITEMS: If you would like items included in either, please get the items to the office by 10 AM on Thursday morning for the bulletin & the Thursday of the last full week of the month for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter. [The deadline to submit items for inclusion in the June newsletter is 10 AM Thursday, May 29.](#)

NOTE: To access videos & bulletins, note the above information in [green](#). If you cannot find bulletins, look under the media tab. If you still need help, call the church and we will help you navigate the website.





Greater
O'Brien
County

Foundational to the Christian faith is loving and serving our neighbors. Love INC serves as a platform where churches can connect with community members needing assistance.

January - March 2025 Ministry Report

161

local Christian volunteers were mobilized to provide service or connect with those with needs in our community!

28

different churches were represented by these volunteers!

Your church's involvement is listed on the reserve side of this sheet.

1,001.5

hours were served by these local Christian volunteers!

Volunteers served in the following ways:



distributed furniture and other housewares to those in our community living without

145
items!



provided transportation to medical, counseling, and dental appointments for people in need of rides

96
rides!



served through the Life Together ministry. This ministry equips community members with new skills, encouragement, and accountability as they look to lead quality and productive lives.

50
class meetings!



66 adults and 28 children benefited from receiving furniture or other housewares or rides to appointments



51 adults and children attended the Life Together ministry (life skills classes, financial mentoring, and life coaching)

One story of impact:

A young mom leaving an abusive relationship also left behind a nice house, car, and all the family's financial needs being met. She is now trying to pick up the pieces of her life and find healing for herself and her children. The pain of long-term abuse cut deeply, leading to feelings of fear, uncertainty, and self-harm, not only for the mother but for her children as well. This young mom is grateful for the church partnership of Love INC:

Everyone is so nice, understanding, and helpful. I feel listened to and supported. In a time when I was at my lowest, you were all there to pick me up and continue to be firm support. I have needed this class now more than ever. Thank you for being there for me!

2025 January - March

First Reformed Church

Janice Vander Pol volunteers each week through the Life Together ministry, using her financial knowledge to equip others. She gave 27 hours of service last quarter!

Ingetta Tutje volunteers in the Love INC office 4 mornings each week. She served nearly 225 hours last quarter!

Cindy Hassebroek and Wendy Peelen served in the childcare rooms at Life Together so parents could attend life skills classes. Together, they invested more than 14 hours of time into the lives of children in our community!

Larry Sterk served as a life coaching through the Life Together ministry.

Sue Fonkert serves on the board of directors.

Loretta Boender, Bev Brouwer, John & Jewell Doely, Carol Pomerence, Linda Stellinga, Dee Van Beek, and Dixon Van Meeteren provided transportation to ensure people were able to attend medical appointments. Combined, they volunteered more than 30 hours and travelled more than 700 miles in service to others!

Tyler, Nicole, & Isabel Freeman, John Sheahan, Nick Stellinga, and Wally and Dianne Wolthuizen volunteered with the furniture ministry, distributing household items to those living without.

Renee Van Velzen, Katie Van Beek, Dianne Wolthuizen, and Wendy Vander Plaats provided refreshments for volunteers and community members attending the Life Together ministry.

Bev Brouwer, Carol Pomerence, Wally & Dianne Wolthuizen, and Sheila Zanela provided meals to the children attending the Life Together ministry with their parents.

Arlan Lode, Ed De Vries, and John Boender volunteered with the paper recycling collection in partnership with the Prairie Queen Kiwanis Club.

Your church's financial support of the Love INC partnership:

2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
\$1,749.99	\$7,150.00	\$7,150.00	\$8,916.47	\$6,600.00

AN UPDATE FROM Beth Borgens

Keeping Missionaries on Mission from Cru's Boulder Office

March 2025

Jesus: Fairytale or More?

How would you help a Chinese student grasp the reality of Jesus?

Bridges, Cru's ministry to international students, hosts a Tuesday night Bible study at Cal Berkeley. Designed to help introduce Jesus to those unfamiliar with Him, the Cru staff leaders illustrate pertinent passages of scripture with clips from "The Chosen" TV series.

Two weeks into the study, LiLi, from China, said, "You know ... I've heard fragments of this "Jesus story," and I thought it was just a fairytale... but maybe Jesus is not a fairytale. Maybe Jesus is real."

LiLi asked loads of questions each time the Bridges group gathered for Bible study, weekly dinner outreaches, and social events. Then, four months later, at a partnering Chinese church, LiLi declared herself to be a follower of Christ:

"Coming to your Bridges dinners and then reading the Bible made me start to think about spiritual things and explore if God is real!"

Now, almost a year later, immersed in church life and deep faith conversations, LiLi continues to experience the reality of Jesus.

*to protect the identity of LiLi, I, Beth, have chosen not to share any pictures.

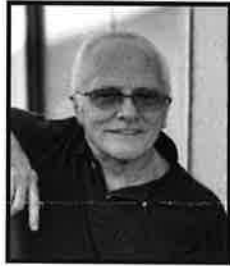
Ministry story shared by Kyle and Emily Driggers, UC Berkeley

Emma - still trying to figure out pedaling, but enjoying her new helmet.



Prayers & Praises

- Praise God for the spiritual journeys He has everyone on. Praise God for LiLi.
- Pray for a safe, final month of pregnancy. For us to all remain healthy.
- Praise God that I am on track to wrapping my work up well before maternity leave, which sets me up well for returning.
- Pray for Emma (and us!) as she transitions to being a big sister. She has gone through a few toddler-transitions already this year, but we anticipate this transition to be harder for her to understand.



Rick Malm
Commission
To Every Nation
Founder & President

CTEN USA
P.O. Box 291307
Kerrville, TX 78029
www.cten.org

CTEN Canada
P.O. Box 22017
11500 Tecumseh Rd E
Windsor, ON N8N5G6

My wife and I just returned from visiting CTEN missionary families serving in some of the most breathtakingly beautiful regions of Europe. As we listened, they told us how sharing the gospel in a place so richly blessed by the Creator is often incredibly difficult. These lands are steeped in Christian heritage, their countrysides adorned with magnificent, towering cathedrals. Yet, the spiritual soil is hardened—burnt over by history, resistant to new growth. It's not just that the seeds of the gospel fall on hard ground, as in Jesus' parable (Matthew 13); in many cases, they seem to land on hearts of stone and concrete.

But here's the amazing thing about seeds—they don't give up. When the wind carries them onto a slab of concrete, they search for the tiniest crack, a hidden patch of dirt, anywhere they can take root and grow. This spring, as I battle grass and weeds stubbornly pushing through my driveway and sidewalk, I want to take a lesson from them. They persist. They refuse to surrender to resistance.

And so do our missionaries. Even in spiritually hardened areas of Europe and other gospel-resistant regions, they are witnessing something remarkable: the seeds of the gospel finding their way into the cracks. God is leading them to those "open spaces" in the hardness—hungry hearts among the barren concrete. They plant, and the miracle of growth begins. They sow, and God makes it flourish. But they can only do this because someone—because you—have helped them go.

Thank you for sowing generously into the work of our CTEN missionaries. Your support is not just financial—it is a source of strength and encouragement. Because of you, churches are being planted. Bible translation efforts are advancing. Medical missions are healing. Pioneer evangelism is breaking new ground. Mercy ministries are reaching the poor. The love of God is being made known in ways beyond measure.

You are part of this great mission. You are helping plant seeds of hope and salvation across the globe. Well done, and thank you!

Rick

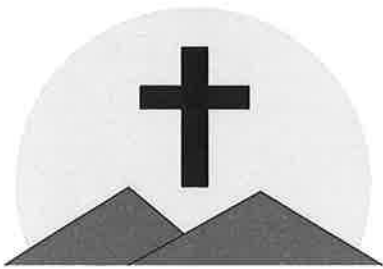


Commission
TO EVERY NATION

May 2025
www.cten.org

Prayer Calendar

- 1 - Steve Mashni - *USA* - Prayer for Gaza Strip disciples; growth in his YouTube ministry and more speaking engagements.
- 2 - Mark De Haan - *Ecuador* - Pray for the 300-home community of Guasán Grande that will be completing construction of its new water system soon, that they would be blessed not only by clean water but by the life-giving water of God's presence and salvation.
- 3 - Adam & Breanne King - *Philippines* - Please pray for them as they finalize foster license paperwork to take in orphaned sibling groups in the Philippines.
- 4 - Joshua & Diana Boling - *Costa Rica* - Please pray for safety and resources as they build a church for the indigenous Costa Rica tribe in the mountains, which takes them 10 hours to get to including dense jungle areas only accessible by foot or horseback.
- 5 - Bethany Jeffers - *Tanzania* - Pray for trauma-informed care training and trauma healing ministry for children and youth in Tanzania and those who are caring for them.
- 6 - Rita & Geoff Doppenberg - *Guatemala* - Please pray for health and continued financial support for the Doppenberg family.
- 7 - Joshua & Tania Turner - *Canada* - Please pray for wisdom, provision, and open doors as they equip and support native missionaries to reach unreached tribes with the gospel.
- 8 - Thad & Anita Maddox - *Mexico* - Father, they need and ask for Your discernment over every aspect of their mission - the who, when, what, why and how.
- 9 - Katie & Tiberias Mucheke - *Kenya* - Please pray for them as they raise support and prepare to return to Kenya to serve at Rift Valley Academy.
- 10 - Jessica Meeks - *Northern Ireland* - Please pray for Exodus Belfast as 126 young people are starting a discipleship journey and heading away on summer teams.
- 11 - Rodney & Faith Unruh - *Kenya* - Pray for wisdom for them as they continue working through the challenges of setting up a respite center for missionaries closer to their fields of ministry.
- 12 - Jack & Carol Lavalley - *USA* - Praying for good health and strength to complete the work that they have been given by the Lord.
- 13 - Jill Senechal - *Northern Ireland* - Please pray for the 600 young people from Northern Ireland currently completing one of their discipleship courses and preparing to serve on mission teams this summer.
- 14 - Adam & Hannah Anderson - *Mexico* - Join them in praying for unity among the pastors and congregations of Parras.
- 15 - Grace Spell - *USA* - For wisdom and provision to walk out the vision and plans God has placed in her heart.
- 16 - Oscar & Karla Chiquito - *Guatemala* - Pray that pastors serving with IGN in Guatemala will always be committed to preaching the Word.
- 17 - Caitlyn & Hector Christie-Hernandez - *Guatemala* - Please pray that they will faithfully live out and teach the Word of God to Achi men, women, and children, leading to their repentance of sin, saving faith, and lifelong discipleship.
- 18 - Cesar & Nancy Cortez - *Ecuador* - Pray for them as they build clean water systems and share the Word of God.
- 19 - Benji & Hazel Cruz - *Philippines* - Prayer for financial provisions as they bring LW to different churches and provisions as they fight the passing of woke bills in their country.
- 20 - Heath & Mariko Meikle - *Canada* - Please pray for the imminent launch of Urban Chapel (an inner city church plant in Vancouver) that God would bring the right people both to serve and to attend, and especially for a worship leader!
- 21 - Neely McLoed - *Guatemala* - Praise God for the divine connections He has made, pray for wisdom and discernment in the midst of a season of transition, and pray for new financial partners.
- 22 - Laiken Turner - *Romania* - Pray she finds a summer job to help support her in the time between her current ministry job and going into the mission field.
- 23 - Noah Murphy - *Guatemala* - Pray for financial assistance and time management as life and work responsibilities become greater.
- 24 - Sheldon & Kym Arensen - *Kenya* - Pray for Kym as she establishes the Equipping Minds program with Christian schools and teachers in the Naivasha area to help children improve their minds and learn better.
- 25 - Will & Cheryl Wen - *Japan* - Please pray that the next generation of student leaders in Japan will have the wisdom and knowledge to help them grow into disciples.
- 26 - Alisha & Jesus Romero-Rosenau - *Mexico* - Pray the Lord shows them which ministries they should get involved in as well as pray for more financial support.
- 27 - Allison & Michael Lee - *Peru* - Join them in prayer as they begin weekly visits to the community of Los Rosales, seeking to share the Good News with those who have limited access and resources. Also, join them in thanksgiving for the birth of their son, Samuel Matthew!
- 28 - Lisa Monroe - *Kenya* - Please pray for the children of Valley Light Home that the Lord would provide safe, loving places for them while the Kenyan government shuts down all orphanages.
- 29 - Benjamin Stowe - *Honduras* - Pray for wisdom as he continues to prepare for working/moving to Honduras and taking care of all the logistical and financial factors.
- 30 - Claire Ulrich - *Northern Ireland* - She is in the process of moving to Northern Ireland for ministry, so please be praying that the visa process is simple and straightforward, that the needed funds come in, and that the entire transition is smooth.
- 31 - Matthew & Marinda Boubel - *Northern Ireland* - Please pray that they are able to find and raise support for a building that will be used as a youth ministry and discipleship center in the Derry area.



Annville Institute/Grace Covenant Ministries

179 Campus Drive

PO Box 340, Annville, KY 40402

Phone (606) 364-5151

April 2, 2025

Mission Committee
First Reformed Church
1101 7th Street
Sheldon, IA 51201

Dear Partner in Missions,

We are deeply grateful for your generous donation towards our outreach ministry efforts. Your contribution will have a significant impact on this part of Appalachia, directly improving the lives of those we serve and making a profound difference in our community. With your help, we can provide programs for youth at a price that their families can afford, bringing joy and hope to many.

The beauty of Spring is all around us as we enjoy the blooms of redbud and dogwood. The rebirth of the plants reminds us of the rebirth that we can enjoy because of the great sacrifice our Lord and Savior made for us. We hope you will have a blessed Easter as we celebrate that HE IS ALIVE! Your partnership with us enables us to share the story of Jesus's love for His creation with the many people we encounter. Thanks again for your prayers and for blessing us through your support.

Sincerely,

Tommy

Thomas Miracle
Manager of Campus Operations

Jake

Jacob L. Moss
Director of Development

Thank You!!



For God says, "At the acceptable time I listened to you, and on the day of salvation I helped you." Behold now is "The acceptable time," behold now is "The day of salvation." II Cor. 6:2 NASB

The Bible says, "Now is the day of salvation." The Bible makes it urgent that a person responds to the gospel asap! Many of the men I visit with do not think about eternity. There are too many other distractions that keep them from thinking about life after death. Death often comes when it is not expected, heart attack, a brain hemorrhage, accident, and many other causes.

There were approximately 27 men present at last week's Bible study. The topic was, "What Does It Take to Go to Heaven?" Toward the end of the Bible study, the last verse we talked about was taken from Isaiah 55, "Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near..." I asked if there were any questions and one young man asked, "When is it too late to be saved?" I went on to tell him that when a person dies without the Lord, it will be too late. After the Bible study one of the men who has been a Christian for many years, led him to the Lord! It was great to see another Christian praying with the young man who asked the question! I was reminded again that this is what the church is meant to do, lead others to Christ!

I have known Frank for several years. When I was visiting with him one day, he told me about a man he was witnessing to regularly. Frank asked if I would call for this man, because he was not

sure he explained things correctly. While Frank was in the office I explained the gospel message to his friend. When I was finished the young man wanted to invite Christ into his life to be his Lord and Savior. Praise the Lord for Frank's concern for this man's soul!

I wrote about James last year, but here is his testimony. "Over a decade ago when I was first incarcerated, I read my Bible every day. As time passed, I began to drift away from God. I began feeling alone, hopeless, empty, and broken. I decided I had enough, and I swallowed 60 pills. I was found unresponsive, and I was put on a life support machine. I was given a one percent chance to live and was in a coma for several days. I could hear things going on around me, but I couldn't respond. As I was getting an MRI, I heard God tell me, 'James I am going to heal you, and you will be okay.' A few days later as I was coming out of the coma, the doctor told me that I had no permanent damage to my brain and body! They all told me, 'You are a modern-day miracle, you should have never been able to walk or talk again.' God had other plans for me! It reminded me of the story of the lost sheep that Jesus went after and saved. I learned that Jesus was my 1% in the hospital. I didn't deserve life, I am a sinner and deserved death but Jesus came to me and gave me life. I was given a second chance, and I am using it to grow in the Word and Spirit. I know now I am never alone, Hebrews 13:5. From now on I will stay focused on Christ and spread His Word." Praise the Lord that He still is doing miracles today, healing this man who had only a 1% chance of survival!

Thank you for your prayers and financial support!

Blessings, *Harlan*

Please designate my name in the memo section of your check. Send them to: Prison Lighthouse Fellowship (PLF) or South Dakota Prison Chaplain's Association (SDPCA), 601 W 57th Street Sioux Falls, SD 57108. Your gifts are appreciated and tax deductible. My phone: 605-940-4220, Email: harlan@convergeheartland.org



May 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 National Day of Prayer 7am Executive Team Mtg 6:30pm National Day of Prayer @ Bethel Reformed	2	3
4 8am Praise team practice Baptisms: Reece Dibbet & Cora & Cale Crooks	5 Deadline for Mother's Day Bouquet names 6pm Congregational Care Mtg 6:30pm Outreach Mtg	6	7	8 4:30-6pm Sheldon Food Truck @ Living Water	9	10
11 Mother's Day 8am Praise team practice Gideon Speaker: John Kookier	12	13	14	15 6:30pm Elders/Deacons Mtgs 7pm Evening Circle 7:30pm Consistory Mtg	16	17
18 8am Praise team practice Last Day of Sunday School	19 5:30-6:30pm Sheldon Unity Meal @ Living Water	20 7pm Western Christian High School Graduation	21 1:30pm Afternoon Circle	22	23 Last Day of School for Sheldon	24
25 Graduation Sunday 8am Praise team practice 2pm Sheldon High School Graduation	26 Memorial Day Office closed today	27	28	29	30	31