

May 2026



First Reformed Church

Building God's Kingdom One Life at a Time

1101 7th St, Sheldon, IA 51201

(712) 324-2130

sheldonfirstreformed.com

Bible League's Spring Salad Luncheon

When: Monday, May 4

Time: 11:30 AM

Where: Trinity Reformed Church in Orange City (201 St. Paul Avenue SE)

Please bring one salad for every 4 ladies in your group. Featured speakers will represent the **Legacy Thrift** and **Hands Around the World** ministries. Updates from BLI will be given, and a free will donation will be received. Join us for this FUN event!

National Day of Prayer

Please join us on **Thursday, May 7, 2026**, at Sheldon Living Water at 6:30 PM as we observe our nation's 250th and the 75th anniversary of National Day of Prayer.

The 2026 National Day of Prayer theme, "The Prayer at Valley Forge," accurately depicts both our nation's history of prayer and that we NEED God's wisdom and guidance in our nation. We need to be one nation under God.

Questions? Call the NDP Committee Chairman at 712.541.1502



VBS WORK NIGHT

DATE: Tuesday, May 5

TIME: 5:30 PM

Pizza will be provided for those willing to help. There is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table for this.

DATE: Thursday, May 8

TIME: 4:30-6:00 PM

LOCATION: Living Water Church

Bring a box with you to pick up your groceries.



MOTHER'S DAY BOUQUET

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10. 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 4. The flowers will go to Sanford Senior Care after the May 10 service.

Make checks out to First Reformed RCWM.

Sheldon Area
Unity Meal



WHEN: Monday, May 18

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.

Last day of Sunday school will be May 17.

There will be NO Children & Worship on May 24 & 31.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR GRADUATES

- ◆ Sunday, May 17 - Baccalaureate for Sheldon High School @ 7:30 PM
- ◆ Sunday, May 24 - Graduation Sunday at FRC
 - ◆ 2 PM graduation @ Sheldon High School
 - ◆ 2 PM graduation @ MOC/FV High School

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL IN
SHELDON IS FRIDAY,
MAY 22.



The Church office will be closed on Memorial Day, May 25.



ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

- **Brian & Emily Popkes** [Kinsley, Emmerson, Walker]
1319 S. 8th Avenue
Sheldon, IA 51201
Phone: 507.360.4511
Email: popkes12@live.com
- Bob Stellinga died on April 11.



May 5	John & Myrna Wolfswinkel - 55
May 6	Art & Jo Franken - 20
May 12	Joel & Katlyn Crooks - 8
May 13	Ed & Shirley Jager - 61
May 17	Brent & Melissa Mow - 29 Noah & Taylea Sterk - 2
May 23	Larry & Marsha Sterk - 53 Greg & Paula Sawyer - 45
May 24	Marty & Katie Van Peursem - 12
May 25	Matt & Rachel Jurgens - 13
May 26	Zach & Jen Sawyer - 14
May 27	Tim & Wendy Peelen - 45
May 28	Tyler & Georgia Walker - 19
May 29	Arlan & Jane Lode - 63
May 30	Harold & Greta Postma - 52



A NOTE OF



Thank you to all the people who remembered me following my hip revision. Thanks for all of the prayers, calls and for the visit from Pastor Paul.

~ Brian Woelber

Thank you for all of the prayers, expressions of concern and well wishes during my hip surgery, recovery and rehab. I am so thankful for the healing so far and am blessed to be part of such a caring church family.

~ Gretchen Bosma

Thanks so much for your generous donation of granola bars and hard candy for our students to enjoy and help with their energy during ISASP testing!

~ Sheldon High School
freshmen, sophomores, juniors and teachers

Thanks for all your prayers, visits, cards and concern while I was in the hospital. Thanks also to Pastor Paul and Dennis Ten Clay for their visits. It meant a lot. God is good.

~ Kathy Kuyper

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

We will not be having the free garage sale this summer. We plan on having it next summer.

MAY



BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | | | |
|-------|---|--------|---|--------|---|
| May 1 | Marie Westra - 97
Jamie Elgersma | May 9 | Gladys Van Veldhuizen
Sheila Zanela | May 19 | Gerald Van Meeteren
Dan Dykstra
Jason Groendyke
Emerson Wolthuizen |
| May 2 | Sheryl Alons
Brent Kamstra | May 11 | Lorrie Struyk | May 20 | Ed Alons
Jason Bork
Jennifer Van
Regenmorter |
| May 3 | Elmer Den Hartog - 95
Larry Van Meeteren
Deb Ten Clay | May 12 | Alex Bork
Brock De Groot | May 21 | Peggy Elgersma |
| May 5 | Harriet Van Meeteren
Ed Van Meeteren
Sheila Van Beek | May 13 | Randy Fonkert | May 23 | Kristi Meyer
Audrey Punt |
| May 6 | Jennifer Groote
Madeline Schaeffer | May 14 | Jude Van Peursem | May 24 | Gary Heerde
Wendy Vander Plaats
Jesse Baack
Rhett Peters |
| May 7 | Deann Kragt
Molly Sauer
Mitch Jensen | May 15 | Jessica Webb
Remington Drenkow | May 25 | Brenda Godbersen
Shantel Oostra
Rory Reinking |
| May 8 | Brad Vander Pol
Violet Borgens | May 16 | Dixon Van Meeteren
Dalton Holtrop
Paisley Sauer | May 27 | Diana Verburg |
| | | May 17 | Betty Van Der Sloot
Cheryl Van Meeteren | May 28 | Jim Nieuwendorp |
| | | May 18 | Linda Winkel | May 30 | Julia Van Regenmorter |
| | | | | May 31 | Beth Borgens |

Post-Secondary & College Graduates



Julia Van Regenmorter, daughter of Dan & Jennifer, graduated from SDSU with a degree in psychology. She hopes to work with kids with behavioral issues in Sioux Falls following graduation.

Alex Van Surksum will graduate with honors from Luther College in Decorah, IA this month with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education. He is currently student teaching through the end of May and is on to the job hunt.



2026 Graduates



Amaulah is the daughter of Steve & Teresa Gardfrey. She is the granddaughter of Sue Mouw and Jill Mouw. She plans to attend BVU for forensic sciences.



Brielle is the daughter of Brent & Melissa Mouw. She plans to attend ISU for architecture.



Chase is the son of Mike & Kristin Oldenkamp. He plans to attend NCC to complete generals & transfer to a 4-year university for business & finance.



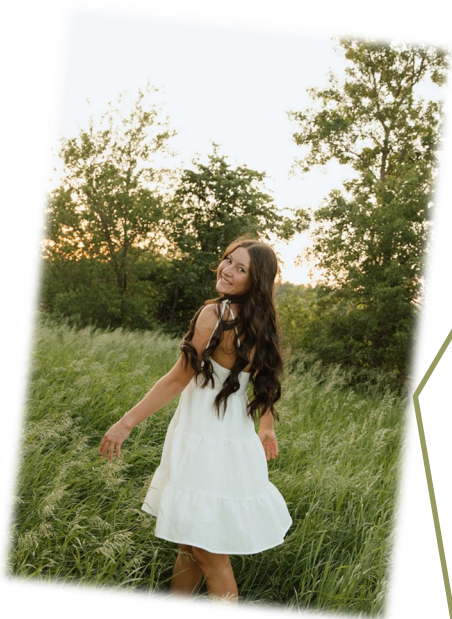
Mikayla is the daughter of Mike & Kristi Meyer. She is the granddaughter of Gary & Judy Meyer. She plans to attend NCC for web & graphic design.



CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL OF OUR
GRADUATES ☐
WE WISH YOU
ALL THE BEST IN
YOUR FUTURE
ENDEAVORS ☐



Ethan is the son of AJ & Reka de Boer. After high school he plans to work at John Deere and work on the family farm until he can take it over.



Jada is the daughter of Derek & Angela Kamstra. She plans to attend cosmetology school.

Kailey is the daughter of Jamie & Peggy Elgersma. She plans to attend USD and major in dental hygiene.



Koby is the son of Brett & Sheila Peelen. He is the grandson of Tim & Wendy Peelen and the great-grandson of Larry & Frances Peelen. He plans to attend NCC for diesel technology.

Drew is the son of Adam & Savannah Sauer. He plans to attend ISU for agriculture.



God bless our graduates!

PROFESSIONS OF FAITH

Devin VR made his profession on April 12.



Devin is the son of Dan & Jennifer Van Regenmorter.

A HARDY WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS.



On April 19 Taylor K, Colten J, Caiden J, Reed J, Andie DG, Taylor S & Makaiah V made their professions of faith.

Taylor is the son of Brandon & Rachel Krukow and grandson of Gladys Van Veldhuizen. Colten and Caiden are sons of Shane & Christie Jager and grandsons of Bob & Cheryl Van Meeteren and Ed & Shirley Jager. Reed is the son of Michael & Erica Jager, grandson of Bob & Peggy Jager and great-grandson of LaVonne Van Essen. Andie is the daughter of Blaine & Larie De Groot and granddaughter of Larry & Marsha Sterk. Taylor is the daughter of Nick & Kathi Stellinga. Makaiah is the daughter of Matt & Jodi Vermeer and the granddaughter of Bob & Peggy Jager and great-granddaughter of LaVonne Van Essen.

General Fund - April 2026

	Mar 26	Jan - Mar	Annual
Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 47,796.09		
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
General Fund	45,140.23	146,955.88	622,661.61
Interest Income	32.82	101.82	
Transfer In	0.00	0.00	90,000.00
Total Income	<u>45,173.05</u>	<u>147,057.70</u>	<u>712,661.61</u>
Gross Profit	45,173.05	147,057.70	712,661.61
Expense			
Alliance Dues	0.00	0.00	21,000.00
Congregational Care	1,552.86	3,180.31	17,000.00
Education	2,206.92	2,586.55	24,700.00
Facilities & Grounds	14,398.46	29,760.48	272,850.00
General and Consistory	936.52	4,764.69	18,100.00
Hands of Hope Outreach	483.29	5,459.22	18,800.00
Office	4,191.71	9,337.35	26,100.00
Payroll Expenses	23,295.78	74,855.24	300,211.61
Transfer Out	0.00	25,000.00	
Worship	406.09	837.78	9,100.00
Youth Groups	14.97	3,242.79	4,800.00
Total Expense	<u>47,486.60</u>	<u>159,024.41</u>	<u>712,661.61</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-2,313.55</u>	<u>-11,966.71</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Cash Flow	<u>-2,313.55</u>	<u>-11,966.71</u>	<u>0.00</u>

Ending Cash Balance \$ 45,482.54

Lower-Level Renovation Fund April 2026

	Mar 31, 26
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
General Fund	
Lower Level Renovation	244,543.07
Total General Fund	244,543.07
Transfer In	
Endowment Interest	7,575.00
Total Transfer In	7,575.00
Total Income	252,118.07
Gross Profit	252,118.07
Expense	
Facilities & Grounds	
Building Improvements	
Lower Level Renovations	250,629.85
Total Building Improvements	250,629.85
Total Facilities & Grounds	250,629.85
Total Expense	250,629.85
Net Ordinary Income	1,488.22
Net Cash Flow	1,488.22

Benevolent Fund - April 2026

	<u>Jan - Mar 26</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Beginning Cash Balance as of January 1, 2026	\$ 75,930.13	
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Benevolent Fund	19,503.41	189,500.00
Missions	700.00	
Sunday School	134.00	
Total Income	<u>20,337.41</u>	<u>189,500.00</u>
Gross Profit	20,337.41	189,500.00
Expense		
Commitments		
Beth (Blankers) Borgens/CRU	1,750.00	7,000.00
Bethesda Christian Counseling	0.00	5,000.00
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
Lay Mission Fund	0.00	10,000.00
Love Inc	1,750.00	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 Opgenorth-Nicaragua	1,750.00	7,000.00
Total Reformed Church in America	<u>3,500.00</u>	<u>14,000.00</u>
Reformed Mission Services	0.00	5,000.00
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	7,000.00
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	7,000.00
Words of Hope	0.00	28,000.00
Total Commitments	<u>25,750.00</u>	<u>189,500.00</u>
YTD Offerings Paid Out	<u>12,783.41</u>	
Total Expense	<u>38,533.41</u>	<u>189,500.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-18,196.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Cash Flow	<u>-18,196.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 57,734.13	

Hands of Hope Outreach committee will be holding another bed build on June 6 at 8 AM - 12 PM or so. We plan to build 10 twin size bed frames for Love Inc. We are looking for a group of 12 people to help with this: high school through senior citizens. Maybe dads or grandpas with children or grandchildren. A sign up sheet will be at the welcome table. If you are unable to help physically, maybe you can help financially towards the cost of the beds and mattresses.

FUNNY CHURCH SIGN SAYINGS

From clicknonprofit.com/funny-church-signs/

- ◆ TUOHTIW EFIL RUOY SI SIHT .TSIRHC
- ◆ Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - no point!
- ◆ God wants full custody, not just weekend visits.
- ◆ With all this rain we need an ark. Fear not! (Wait for it ...)
We Noah guy!
- ◆ Being Christian means not hating. We know - it makes football season hard!
- ◆ It's ok to fall apart. Tacos do all the time and we still love them.
- ◆ Don't give up! Moses was once a basket case.
- ◆ America, the donkey and elephant won't help. We must turn back to the Lamb.
- ◆ Sin burn is prevented by Son screen.
- ◆ Paper-cut: A tree's final moment of revenge.
- ◆ Choose the bread of life or you are toast!
- ◆ Just love everyone. I'll sort them out later. -- God
- ◆ Don't be so open-minded. Your brains fall out!

Consistory Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2026

Those present:

Elders: Galen Blankers, Greg Sawyer, Dennis Ten Clay, Steve Van Beek, Brad Bosma, Larry Vander Plaats, Bob Stellinga, Mike Kleinwolterink

Deacons: Marty Van Peurseem, Tyler Drenkow, Rodney Kruse, Brady Peters, Jared Schaeffer, Brent Hofmeyer

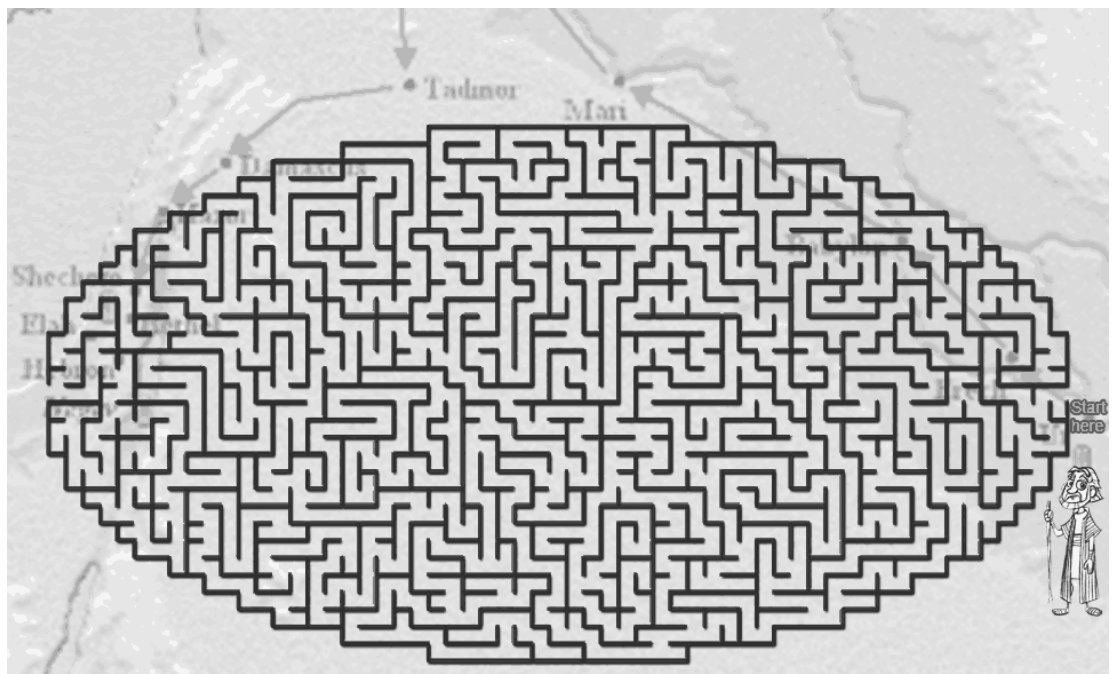
Absent:

Elders: Randy Fonkert

Deacons: Dan Bracy, Andy Cooper, Cleiton Zanela

- A. Pastor Paul called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM.
- B. Pastor Paul offered opening prayer and devotions from Hebrews 9:15.
 1. Jesus atoned for all sins, past, present, future.
 2. Roll Call & Approval of minutes from February 17, 2026.
 - a. **Motion Made Supported & Carried (MMSC)** to approve.
- C. Celebrations and Thanksgivings were discussed.
 1. Recent professions of faith
- D. Thanksgiving letter of appreciation to Inspiration Hills.
- E. Report from Deacons meeting given by Tyler Drenkow.
- F. Report from Elders meeting given by Mike Kleinwolterink.
- G. Pastor's Report
 1. Discussion of replacing pew Bibles. Pastor Paul explained difficulties of ESV and other versions.
 - a. Pastor Paul emphasized importance of shopping locally as a church and it's various committees.
 2. Financial reports provided by Brady Peters and were discussed.
 - a. **MMSC** to approve.
 3. Committee reports were discussed.
 - a. **MMSC** to approve.
- H. Next meeting: Tuesday, April 21, 2026.
- I. Adjourn: **MMSC** to adjourn at 8:40 PM.
- J. Jared Schaeffer closed in prayer.

Help Father Abraham journey across Mesopotamia to the Promised Land in this maze. The Lord told him to leave the land he was raised in ("Ur") and to travel on roads he had never seen. Abraham believed God and obeyed right away, so God blessed him in many ways.



2026 *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 are 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., please let your shepherding team know of the special occasion. In all these situations, an appropriate prayer to the Lord will be offered.

Your Shepherding Team is directly above the list of families to whom they are assigned:

Team 1: Kendall De Groot & Tyler Drenkow

Ed Alons – Darren De Groot

Team 2: Brad Bosma & Dan Bracy

Kendall De Groot – Betty Gonnerman

Team 3: Steve Van Beek & Marty Van Peurseem

Johnny Granstra – Shane Jager

Team 4: Dennis Ten Clay & Jared Schaeffer

Luke Jenness – Toby Maggert

Team 5: Larry Vander Plaats & Rodney Kruse

Eileen Martens – Carol Pomerence

Team 6: Randy Fonkert & Cleiton Zanela

Caleb Popkes – Noah Sterk

Team 7: Galen Blankers & Brady Peters

Brian Stofferan – Norma Van Gorp

Team 8: Mike Kleinwolterink & Andy Cooper

Lyle Van Heuvelen – Darlene Verrips

Team 9: Greg Sawyer & Brent Hofmeyer

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

2026 Ministry Teams Contact People

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Pastor Paul - President
Dennis Ten Clay - Vice President
Mike Kleinwolterink - Clerk
Brady Peters - Chairman of Deacons
Tyler Drenkow - Secretary of Deacons

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Dennis Ten Clay - 712.348.3160
dennistenclay@gmail.com

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Cleiton Zanela - 712.230.1501
zanelavineyards@hotmail.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

Kendall De Groot - 712.324.1410
kdegroot@nethtc.net

We Care -

Nancy Martens - 712.348.0590
nkmartens@hotmail.com

ENDOWMENT FUND

Brady Peters - 712.541.7640
brdyptrs@gmail.com

HANDS OF HOPE OUTREACH

Dianne Wolthuisen - 712.348.4679
waldian12@gmail.com
Janna Kats - 712.441.7122
jannableyenberg@gmail.com

MEMORIAL FUND

Brady Peters - 712.541.7640
brdyptrs@gmail.com

MISSION COMMITTEE

Rodney Kruse - 712.348.4232
rodneykruse@hotmail.com

NURSERY

Kelsey Cooper - 712.348.2636
kelseydh34@gmail.com

PRAYER CHAIN COORDINATOR

Brenda Godbersen - 712.348.0392
brendagodbersen@gmail.com

PULPIT SUPPLY

Dennis Ten Clay - 712.348.3160
dennistenclay@gmail.com

SACRAMENTS

Larry Vander Plaats - 712.348.4626
plaats58@yahoo.com

SAFETY & SECURITY

Greg Sawyer - 712.348.1021
sawyerconstuctioninc@gmail.com

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Andy Cooper - 712.348.6718
andycooper343460@gmail.com

WOMEN TO WOMEN

Brenna Haack - 712.441.0050
brennahaack@gmail.com

WORK GROUPS

Bev Brouwer - 712.348.4083
brouwerb@premieronline.net

Important 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 the bulletin box outside the north kitchen door along with the most recent Encore and devotional
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL:** Follow us on Instagram & Facebook @ Frcsheldonstudent ministries for upcoming activities & any updates. To be added to the email list please email Caitie at caitie@sheldonfirstreformed.com.
- ◆ **DURING THE WEEK:** The church is open from **7AM-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 712.324.2130 & 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 wendy@sheldonfirstreformed.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 the June Encore is noon on Thursday, May 28. It will be printed on May 29.**

NOTE: To access videos & bulletins, note the above information in [purple](#). If you cannot find bulletins, look under the media tab. Then scroll down to the date of the bulletin you are looking for and click on it.

Missionary News

Grooters serving throughout Latin America

We recently returned home after spending 3 months in Costa Rica. While in Costa Rica we visited a new institute in Cachi, Costa Rica and met our new partner from Alaska. It is always good to meet new partners who are helping us mobilize kingdom resources to equip kingdom leaders. Actually, Jay just wanted the secret fishing spots in Alaska, for our upcoming trip this summer. Ha! All joking aside, we had 125 Kingdom leaders attend this session of training and 4 teachers from an Alaska church, plus 3 of our IBAC staff. What a group! Among the leaders in attendance was a group of 8 young indigenous leaders, wanting to bring what they learned back to their church.

We planned to attend a second training institute in Costa Rica. After driving 4 more hours, we got the phone call from our coordinator that the road was closed to get to the town. Over half of the leaders could not get to the church, due to rain washing out the road. Needless to say, we did not try to get our Rav4 through the muddy road. The really neat thing about this new institute is the sponsor for this institute is a Costa Rican family. First time an institute is being funded by a non-US church or individual. God is Good!



Update w/ Amy & ReachGlobal

As you all know, I (Amy) have been serving as the Division Business Manager for ReachGlobal's Latin American division for the past 10+ years. I have decided to step down from this position to focus more of my time on IBAC, as the number of institutes keeps growing. Another DBM with Crisis Response will be assuming my role for Latin America. I will be training Dorinda/Sarah in the next few months. Please pray for a smooth transition.



Prayer Requests

- ◆ Pray for safety as we travel this week to Iowa to see our parents. Girls coming too!
- ◆ Pray for financial partners to help us Mobilize our Latino Teachers. Pray for new church or individual partners for Institutes ready to be started.

Praises

- ◆ Smooth travel back to Colorado last month. First non-stop trip for us in 10 years between the US & Costa Rica.



Beth Borgens

March 2026

Eddy's Cross Necklace Brings Him to Christ

Hara, a Cru student leader at the University of Michigan, was in her dorm elevator when she noticed that fellow student Eddy was wearing a cross necklace. She asked him about it, and he explained that he has some Christian background, but does not practice the faith. Hara invited him to a Cru Bible study that evening, and he showed up.

After the study, Eddy shared more of his story with Luke, another Cru student leader. Because Eddy had limited exposure to Christianity, Luke asked if he could share the message of Jesus. They spent the next hour walking through Scripture and examining who Jesus is. At the end of the conversation, Eddy placed his faith in Christ!

Eddy and Luke have begun meeting together weekly. Luke is answering Eddy's questions and helping him grow in prayer, witnessing, and learning to study the Bible.



Eddy is just one of 18 students who have trusted Jesus as Lord and Savior this year—a record for Michigan Cru!

Picture left to right: Luke, Eddy, Paul

Shared by University of Michigan staff - Paul & Megan Mainzinger

Prayers

- Prayers for healing for me. I had an influenza fever for 6 days the first week of March and I am still recovering from a cough induced asthma that apparently is a common issue post influenza. The coughing/asthma makes it challenging to speak at times; not ideal for leading work meetings :) I'm praying the new medicine I'm taking will help me finally fully recover.
- Prayers for Emma and Violet who both had their 3rd ear infections this month and we also believe had milder cases of influenza. We also believe James had a mild case of influenza. Hopefully this will be the last round of illnesses this "winter". We are weary.
- Praise God for all the spiritual conversations and new believers who came to know Him through our Spring Break trips! My Spotlight tool was used on one of our larger trips (150 students) as they shared their faith on the beach. It's still exciting to see my work in action in new ministry opportunities!

PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2026



“So when Jesus received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished’, bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”
John 19:30

Jesus said He came, “To give His life a ransom for many.” What a great plan of salvation God planned from the beginning! Many people today are trying to be good enough to get to heaven. That will never happen. When Jesus said, “It is finished,” it means there is nothing more we can do, except to trust Jesus alone. He loves us unconditionally, but we can only get right by grace through faith in His work!

One of the men who I have known for a long time asked me if I would contact another inmate in his section who was struggling with his faith. When I went to this man’s cell he told me, “I would really like to visit with you, but can we do it later, like tomorrow or next week? I have things I should do.” Then he said, “No I will come now, lets talk.” In the office he told me that he had been struggling with doing enough good things to please God. He told me, “I am really miserable because I don’t know how to be good enough to be at peace with God.” His idea of being right with God was doing good things so he could be right with God. He told me he dreamed about dying and afraid he was not ready. As I explained the gospel to him, he began to understand that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, through Christ alone! The work is finished through Christ. He prayed to trust Jesus as his only hope of salvation! He told the Lord he was not worthy of His forgiveness but wanted Christ to create in him

a new and clean heart. At first when he wanted to put our meeting off till later, it was a spiritual battle. Praise the Lord, God drew him into His kingdom!

One of the new men being processed told me he had been reading the Bible and studying the Bible in the county jail. (Most of the time men are in the county jail before they come to prison. They can be in county anywhere from six months to a year). He wanted to commit his life to Christ which he did in the one on one we had together. He told me that he can’t get enough of studying the Bible. I have placed extra Christian literature in the chapel. He told me that he took extra literature back with him after Bible study. He laid it out on the tables in the day room, and it all was picked up quickly by the other men. When he came into the chapel for Bible study, he told me that some of the men were there because he encouraged them to sign up. He is definitely spreading the good news of Jesus!

Two more men were baptized last week! One of them was the man who I wrote about in the first paragraph. The other young man who was baptized was excited about the Lord and wanted the Bible study books I give out. There are six books in the series. He filled the first one out in two days and asked for the next one! A few days later he had the other one finished. He asked for all six so he could complete them when he was transferred to Springfield. It is great to have young men growing in the knowledge of the faith in Jesus Christ!

I thank God for your prayers and financial support! I pray that we never stop celebrating God’s great plan of salvation! Have a blessed April!

In Christ, *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

What is Love INC?

Love INC is a collaborative network of churches that functions as a bridge between individuals in need and local congregations seeking meaningful ways to engage with the community. This connection creates additional opportunities for churches to apply their gifts, talents, and resources in service to those experiencing need within our community. Love INC's mission is to:

Mobilize local churches Transform lives All in the name of Christ

This report details our mission accomplishments and your church's involvement from **January - March of 2026.**

25

local churches had volunteers represented in serving through Love INC coordinated ministries!

172

different volunteers were mobilized for service to those in need in our community.

594

hours of time were given by these volunteers in service to others.

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

Sometimes people just need little boost.

63

adults

&

26

children

benefited from receiving furniture, appliances, housewares, medical equipment, or rides to appointments.

Other times, people are looking for guidance and structure to help them embrace new ways of living. We offer this through a program called Life Together.

46

adults

&

16

children

attended the Life Together Ministry, helping them develop healthy lifestyle habits across different areas.

They earn vouchers for products and services when they implement skills learned into their daily lives.

219

vouchers were earned for things like food (non-perishable items, meat, and dairy products), personal hygiene items, and more!

2026 January - March

First Reformed Church

Janice Vander Pol volunteers each week through the Life Together ministry.

Ingetta Tutje volunteers in the Love INC office.

Jayden Gardfrey, Brent Hofmeyer, Will Wassenaar, and Dianne Wolthuizen volunteered with the household goods ministry, distributing furniture and other housewares to people in our community living without.

Cindy Hassebroek and Marlene Lawson served in the childcare rooms at Life Together so parents could attend life skills classes.

Larry Sterk taught a 10 week class through the Life Together ministry.

Sue Fonkert serves on the board of directors.

Connie Van Meeteren serves on Love INC's banquet planning committee.

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

Sheila Peelen and Brian Van Meeteren served at panel night through the Life Together ministry, fielding questions from participants related to investments and taxes.

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

2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
\$583.33	\$7,200.00	\$7,150.00	\$7,150.00	\$8,916.47

MAY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8am Praise Team Practice	4 9pm Hands of Hope Mtg	5 5:30pm VBS Work Night	6	7 National Day of Prayer 7am Executive Team Mtg 6:30pm Nat'l Day of Prayer Service @ Living Water	8	9
10 Mother's Day 8am Praise Team Practice	11 9pm Congregational Care Mtg	12	13	14 4:30-6pm Sheldon Food Truck @ Living Water	15	16
17 8am Praise Team Practice Last Day of Sunday School 7:30pm Sheldon Baccalaureate	18 5:30-6:30pm Sheldon Unity Meal @ Living Water	19 6:30pm Elders/Deacons Mtgs 7:30pm Consistory Mtg	20 1:30pm Afternoon Circle	21 7pm Evening Circle	22 Sheldon's Last Day of School	23
24 Senior Sunday 8am Praise Team Practice No Children & Worship 2pm Graduation - Sheldon & MOC/FY	25 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	26	27	28	29	30
31 8am Praise Team Practice No Children & Worship						