

Holy Week, Then Back to Proverbs (continued from front page)

- **APRIL 18**— We will spend some time in the morning service in prayer for crops and industry. Our proverbs for this day, appropriately enough, will be about work.
- **APRIL 25**— A praise team will lead our singing and we will explore proverbs about addictions.

First Reformed Signs Letter of Intent to Leave the RCA

The consistory considered the 27-4 straw poll results at the last congregational meeting and decided to file a letter of intent to withdraw from the RCA. Two-thirds of Dakota Classis has already done this with the hopes of joining together with other like-minded churches in the denomination in forming the Alliance of Reformed Churches (ARC). The classis is expecting that most, if not all, or the rest of the Dakota Classis will join in this.

Filing this letter is only the first step in a process that takes at least six months, and can be reversed at any point. And of course, we will be waiting for ARC to officially form before probably joining with that group. If you have any further questions about this, please talk to Pastor Dave or a consistory member.

Consistory Continues to Plan for the Future

The consistory met with Classis Pastor Seth Sundstrom in March to discuss various steps in a pastoral search. The consistory is now coming up with names of possible people to put on a Search Team that would represent the diversity of the congregation. Once that is completed, the Search Team and the consistory will meet with Pastor Sundstrom (probably on some Sunday in the spring) to talk through the church's health, its vision and mission, and key priorities for the next pastor.

*It takes both the rain and the sunshine
to make a rainbow.*

First Reformed Church, Volga, SD

April 2021

Glad Tidings

“I bring you glad tidings of great joy...”

Holy Week, then back to Proverbs

We are right in the middle of Holy Week when Easter starts, but then we will get back to the book of Proverbs.

- **MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1**— It is not only April Fool's Day, but more importantly Maundy Thursday. At our **7:30 p.m.** service, we will look at the “foolishness” of the cross from 1 Corinthians and celebrate the Lord's Supper with the pre-packaged communion elements as we did in March. The Christian Reformed Church is invited to join us.
- **GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2** —We are invited to join the Christian Reformed Church for their Good Friday service at **7 p.m.** We will also be partaking of communion there.
- **EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4** —Join us for a time of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus. Pastor Dave will preach about Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life. Some of our ParaPraise singers will share a few ParaPraise songs relevant to the message of Easter. There will **NOT** be a Sunrise Service or breakfast this year.
- **APRIL 11** — Pastor Dave will return to his series on the book of Proverbs by looking at sayings about friendship. A praise team will lead our singing.

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Upcoming Task Force Meetings

MESA—April 12

Consistory—April 21

Worship—June 7



IN NEED OF PRAYER

The following members needed medical care recently and appreciate your prayers:

- Alan Kooima—defibrillator surgery
- Wayne Mans—knee surgery
- Bernita Kooima, Dawn Lucas, Jodi Koerner and Pastor Dave — chemotherapy

Sympathy to:



- Carolyn and Sheldon Cotton and family on the death of Carolyn's brother, Dennis Nagel, on February 24
- VernaMae Van Maanen on the death of her grandson, Curtis Van Maanen on March 10
- Kay Christianson on the death of her brother, John Dodds, on March 17

Change of Address

- Sheldon Cotton has moved to Dakota Sun

It is Easter. A soft, warm breeze replaces the icy blasts of winter; the smell of rich damp earth warmed by the sun fills the air; young tender buds appear on trees that yesterday seemed barren, and tiny crocuses lift their lovely heads to the sun. The earth is responding to the touch of spring and giving of its beautiful gifts to delight the heart of man. Just as spring awakens the earth and stirs it to activity, Easter awakens the soul of man and arouses in him a divine restlessness, a desire to share his inner spiritual joy with others. It is small wonder that his heart is filled with a desire to give the message of Christ to others. - Author Unknown

Looking Back Ten Years..... 2011!!

- Celebrated Arnold Van Maanen's 90th birthday with an open house in the fellowship hall
- Celebrated Holy Week beginning with a children's Palm Sunday 'parade', Maundy Thursday service with communion, Good Friday service, Easter Sunrise service with a breakfast following
- Mourned the death of Dena Bleeker
- Observed Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Day with a potluck meal
- Search Committee had a phone interview with a prospective pastor

Youth Groups in April

The youth groups will meet on the following Wednesdays in April at 7 p.m. each time.

April 7—High School Youth Group

April 14—Middle School Youth Group

April 28—High School and Middle School together

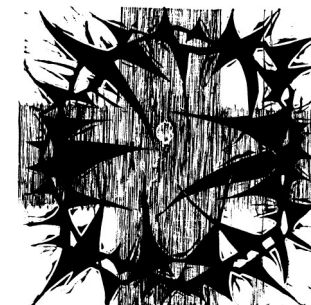
Sunday School Memorization

The Kindergarten and 1st grade as well as the 2nd and 3rd grade classes will recite their memorized selections to the congregation on Sunday, May 2.

The 4th and 5th grade classes as well as the 6th-8th grade classes will share their memorization to the congregation on Sunday, May 16.

Crown of Thorns

To the Lenten cross of wood the symbol of thorns and thistles is added. In sharp contrast to a splendid, kingly crown, Jesus Christ bore a crown of thorns. As a reminder of the toil mentioned in the Genesis account of the fall, thorns represent the complete suffering, pain, and lowliness Jesus submitted to in placing our sins and God's judgment on Himself. (Genesis 3:17b-18, Psalm 22:1-2, Matthew 27:28, 1 Peter 2:24)



Through Mary's Eyes - John C. Bonser

I see Him working by my husband's side
 Within the shop where Joseph plies his trade;
And I, His mother, Mary, watch Him smile
 With satisfaction at some chair He's made.

I proudly marvel at His purity -
 The beauty of His glowing, godly face -
How quickly He has done each given task,
 His every movement rich in loving grace!

I watch Him cross the dark'ning room and pause
 Beside the moonlit window, looking out.
His lips move silently in prayer; He prays
 For that great work that He must be about.

O Jesus, once my tiny blessed babe,
 How dearly I would hold You to me still,
And yet my heart just bid You leave this house
 That you may do Your heavenly Father's will!

I weep for all the suffering and pain
 That shall be given You henceforth to bear,
And still my tears reflect a mother's joy
 That in Your glorious purpose I may share.

Let Caesars bow their mortal heads and priests
 Behold in You
God's own anointed One;
 Now may the long-awaited words be heard;

At last the **Great Messiah** comes—my Son!

Highlights of Last Month

- Wyatt Vander Wal, son of Kyle and Allyson Vander Wal was baptized at the March 21 service
- First Reformed women hosted the World Day of Prayer service on Saturday, March 6
- An adult Sunday School class has been meeting in the conference room off the kitchen. They are beginning a new study called *Jonah, Habakkuk, Malachi: Living Responsibly*
- More and more people have been getting their COVID-19 vaccine. That, coupled with the fact that few have taken advantage of the pews designated as Mask-Only zones, has led the consistory to decide to remove the Mask-Only zone

Hy-Vee Receipts

If you turn in Hy-Vee (Brookings only) receipts to the basket along the north wall in the fellowship hall, you can be part of a MESA fund-raiser. When we have \$150,000 worth of receipts, Hy-Vee will donate \$1,000 toward a MESA project yet to be determined. As of March 25 we have collected \$147,973.69 - - getting close to our \$150,000 mark!!

Thank you to Val and Bryon Mullett who tabulate the receipts.

Thank you for turning in your receipts! Keep eating, stay healthy making every bite count!

Service Project for April

The MESA service project for April is office supplies for Center of Hope in Sioux Falls. The items they are requesting are:

- # 10 envelopes in peel and seal type
- Reams of colored paper (all colors welcomed)
- 3 5/8 x 6 1/2 envelopes
- White card stock
- Bond paper

Please take a card located in the pockets on the display board in the fellowship hall. Items and cards should be returned to the tote provided by April 30. Your support of this service project is appreciated.