

New Books in the Library

CL-253— *life, repurposed*

You will find comfort, inspiration and wisdom in these stories from women just like you. Every encouraging account shows hope and renewed faith as they have come through trials and tough times.....In these examples of forgiveness, starting over, renewed joy, fresh faith, love, healing, acceptance and refined hope, you'll be inspired to experience your own story of transformation.

Robyn Mulder has written a chapter in the book beginning on page 171.

CF 682—*Braced for Love #1* (Brothers in Arms series) by Mary Connealy
Kevin Hunt was at peace with the grueling but honest labor of Kansas farm life, until he received news that he had inherited part of a successful Wyoming ranch....But trouble seems to follow Kevin on the way.

CF 683—*A Man with a Past #2*

Falcon Hunt traveled west, compelled to start a new life by a surprise telegram that promised him an inheritance and a family in Wyoming..... When shootings start happening on the ranch, it's clear someone is gunning for the Hunt brothers.

CF 684—*Love on the Range #3*

While his brothers and their new wives search for who shot him, Wyatt Hunt is temporarily bedridden and completely miserable..... The Hunt brothers will have to band together to face all the troubles of life and love that suddenly surround them.

CF 681— *Robin's Greeting* (the third book in the Amish Greenhouse series)

For the first two years, Belinda King has been struggling to keep the family greenhouse running. Despite disconcerting events that have threatened to put them out of business, they have survived two growing seasons. Just when Belinda thinks she can choose between her suitors, life throws more trials her way.

*Open a book and you will find,
People and places of every kind.
Open a book and you can be
Anything that you want to be!
Open a book and you can share,
Wondrous words you find in there!*

First Reformed Church, Volga, SD

February 2022

Glad Tidings

"I bring you glad tidings of great joy..."
Luke 2:10

Pastor Gary will continue his series *A Look at Life*

The series is focused on his life-changing conversion. If you missed the first message in the series, you can find it on the church website under sermons.
(firstreformedvolga.org)

- **February 6**—We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper together. Pastor Gary will be sharing about his spiritual growth and challenging us to grow as well.
- **February 13**— A praise team will lead our singing. Pastor Gary will share how he felt called into the ministry.
- **February 20**—On this Sunday, Pastor Gary and Robyn will share about their experience with Robyn's depression.
- **February 27**—The praise band will lead praise songs at the beginning of the service.
Pastor Gary will be installed as pastor at FRC-Volga at a special service at 1 p.m. Be watching for more details.





- continue to remember those in the congregation that are receiving ongoing chemo or radiation treatments
- also those remember those have been struggling with colds, flu and COVID

Upcoming Team Meetings (formerly called task forces)

- Buildings and Grounds—February 9
- Consistory—February 16
- Congregational Care—February 23
- MESA —February 28
- Worship—March 8

Youth Group Meetings in February

February 2—Senior High Youth Group

February 9—Junior High Youth Group (TLC)

February 23—Both youth Groups meet together

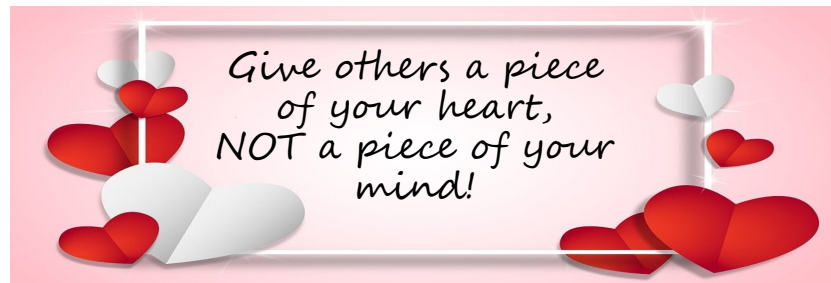
Hy-Vee Receipts

If you turn in Hy-Vee (Brookings only) receipts to the basket along the north wall in the fellowship hall, you can be a 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 January 26, we have collected \$65,601.90.

A REMINDER—please bring in your gas receipts also!

Thank you to Dori Ohm for keeping track of the receipts.

Keep eating, stay healthy making every bite count!



Looking Back Ten Years..... 2012!!

- The February 19 morning service was a musical journey where we went song by song through the first few pages of the hymnal. The order of worship was different from a usual service but included all the ordinary elements of the worship. Many songs were sung by the congregation as well as special numbers.
- Marked the beginning of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service on February 22
- Consistory participated in a Dakota Classis North Central Cluster Retreat at Faith Reformed Church

Highlights of Last Month

- Pastor Gary preached his first message on January 2 entitled “A New Thing”
- Dori Ohm was ordained and installed as an elder on January 2
- Howard Lindberg and Kevin Warne were installed as deacons on January 2
- Pastor Gary and Robyn are getting acquainted with FRC members and guests by making personal visits
- Pastor Gary began a sermon series *A Look at Life* focusing on his life-changing conversion

Cybersecurity

At the present time, the camera focuses on the front of the sanctuary and not on those present at the service.

Photo Use Notice: Please know our morning services at First Reformed Church, Volga, SD are live streamed, posted and archived on our church website, and also could be shared via social media. Periodically, there will be images from church events posted to our public Facebook page. If you prefer not to have images or videos of you or your family posted in FRC's Facebook page, please notify our church secretary.

Progress Report on our Compassion Child, Nelly

Spiritual Progress—Exceeds Expectations

Cognitive Progress—Exceeds Expectations

Physical Progress—Exceeds Expectations

Socio-Emotional Progress—Meets Expectations

Her latest letter was printed in the December 2021 issue, but did not include her progress report. She appreciates your prayer support!

Service Project for February

Option 1’s mission statement is to assist women in the Brookings area and SDSU who are experiencing unplanned pregnancies to explore choices by providing appropriate resources and support including counseling, education programs and mentoring. Option 1 in Brookings recognizes that women have a right to make their own decisions about the outcome of their pregnancy and sexual health. Option 1 is available to help women and their partners make informed and thoughtful decisions.

How can you help? You are invited to take a little card from the pockets on the display board in the fellowship hall, purchase the items and return the card and items to the tote provided. (Deadline will be sometime in March.)

- | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Baby lotion | Baby soap | Wipes | Sleepers |
| Onsie (newborn-1 year) | Blankets | Crib sheets | |
| Personal items | Baby shoes (6 months—1 year) | | |
| Tennis shoes (under 2 years) | | Latch assist | |
| Newborn diapers | Baby socks | Colic calm | Gripe water |
| Gift cards to Wal-Mart to purchase pack-n-play | | | |
| Gifts cards to Amazon to purchase car seats | | | |



More than 30 years ago, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

*“Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game,
help us to be mindful of those
without even a bowl of soup to eat.”*

This year, our Souper Bowl of Caring donation will be given to the Brookings BACK-PACK PROJECT. The project assists children and youth in Brookings County who may not have enough food to eat at home by providing them with easy-to-prepare weekend meals and snacks throughout the year. By helping to sustain these children, we seek not only to meet their nutritional needs but also to promote their physical, cognitive and social development and to enhance their overall sense of well-being. In 2018, Sioux Valley Schools was added to the list of children served.

A big bowl will be set out on Super Bowl Sunday, February 13 .

ARC Update

In case you haven’t heard, we are now an official member of the Alliance of Reformed Churches. We were one of the first 43 churches accepted into the ARC. Being one of the founding churches allows us to have a bigger voice into the new denomination, but that also means we serve as guinea pigs as new procedures, policies, and liturgies are written. It will take time to work out all the details.

Churches are responding in faith and joining the ARC despite the limited resources. At this time the ARC only employs two pastors. The board is also somewhat limited with only four official board members in addition to the staff, but more board members and staff will be added in the future.

The Dakota Network (formerly Dakota Classis) is also growing. The ARC will have larger groupings of churches so our network will extend into Minnesota and North-west Iowa for the time being. There will be an official meeting of Dakota Network this spring. Until then, we will have to get used to new terms. *Network* will replace *classis* and *hubs* will replace *clusters*. We will be a part of Dakota Network and the East Central Hub.

Not much will change on the local level. The biggest changes we will see in the long run will be lower assessments and more local decision-making power. The ARC does not want to become the bureaucracy that the RCA had become. They prefer local leadership over the top-down leadership that was increasingly present in the RCA. We will still have standards that we must adhere to, but there will be greater flexibility in living out those standards at the local level.

All in all, the ARC is off to a good start. There will still be some challenges along the way, but we have faithful leaders who will address those issues. It will take patience and grace as we move forward. Not everything will be as it once was, but the ARC is committed to putting Jesus at the forefront of every decision. Please pray for our new denomination. Pray for the leadership and the staff. Pray that we will be faithful in our call to follow Jesus and sharing the gospel with our communities and our world.

Pastor Gary