

Denominational Update

Welcome to The Alliance! It's still the same denomination we joined a few months ago, but we are emphasizing it in a different way. We had gotten used to calling our new denomination the ARC, but another Christian grouping of churches already was using that reference, so they politely asked us to choose something else. So the initials will still be the same, but we will probably refer to it as "The Alliance" more than ARC. The logo has also been changed. You can check it out at arc21.org.

The leadership team has been working to establish criteria for accepting and ordaining pastors. They were delayed for a few months as they sorted out some retirement concerns. Now it looks like they are ready to have pastors transfer into the Alliance, so I anticipate doing that in the near future. The leaders expect over 100 churches to be included as member churches by fall and perhaps 200 by next year at this time. We now have six networks (formerly classis) all over the US. Dakota Network is by far the largest with churches in South Dakota, North Dakota, NW Iowa, and SW Minnesota, but new churches are being added each month.

If you have any questions about The Alliance or its leadership, please contact me any time. I can also get you information on how to donate. This first year they are relying strictly on donations because assessments are always one year behind. They would appreciate any support you could give them.

In His Service,
Pastor Gary

Power Connection to be held July 29-31

Eight young people as well as Pastor Gary and Robyn will be attending Power Connection in Minneapolis on July 29-31.

Power Connection is liken to a mini-Rocky Mountain High for middle schoolers.

Father's Day Prayer! Bless every father and every grandfather with the best spiritual blessings on Father's Day and every day! Let them know they are not alone in the tasks that You have given them to provide and support those under Your care.

First Reformed Church, Volga, SD

June 2022

Glad Tidings

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

Upcoming Worship Services

It's summertime—time for relaxing in the Lord's presence each Sunday. Here is what you can expect this month.

- **June 5**— It is Pentecost Sunday. Pastor Gary will be preaching on the spiritual presence of Christ at the communion table. We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper together.
- **June 12**— To conclude Old Timer's Day weekend, FRC will be hosting an old-fashioned hymn sing at 7 p.m. followed by an ice cream social. Invite a friend—come for an evening of inspiration and fellowship! The praise team will begin our morning service with some praise songs.
- **June 19**—It's Father's Day! The praise band will be leading us in some praise songs.
- **June 26**— Pastor Gary and Robyn will be on vacation.





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

- Jodi Koerner, Dawn Lucas, Bernita Kooima, Edward Vander Wal—treatments
- Larry Dyer—hip replacement surgery
- Sheldon Cotton—COVID

Upcoming Team Meetings

- June 5 — Buildings and Grounds (after morning service)
- June 14—Consistory
- July 26—Worship Team



Congratulations to: Ryan and Morgan (Fischer) Bjorklund who were united in marriage on Saturday, May 28.

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 reach \$150,000 in receipts, Hy-Vee will donate \$1,000 toward a MESA project yet to be determined.

As of May 24, we have collected \$115,282.53.

A REMINDER—please bring in your gas receipts also.

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

Keep eating, stay healthy and make every bite count!

Upcoming Musical Events at FRC

- Sunday evening, June 12 at 7 p.m.—Old Fashioned Hymn Sing and Ice Cream Social
 - Sunday evening, August 7 at 7 p.m.—Cornerstone Quartet from the Leota, Minnesota area
 - Sunday evening, September 11 at 7 p.m.—Praise and Worship Evening with the Praise Band.



Mark your calendars! Be watching for more details and information in the coming weeks and months.

Looking Back Ten Years.....2012

- FRC had a pie and beef sandwich booth at Volga Old Timer's Day—an approximate total of \$850 was realized.
- The Community Old Timer's Day service was held on Sunday morning at Sioux Valley Schools. An offering was received for a sound system for Dakota Sun. FRC's Worship Task Force provided refreshments before the 11 a.m. service
- Pastor Jim Thvedt spoke at the Father/Son Banquet on June 13. The Valley catered a roast beef/mashed potato meal.
- In an effort to improve the acoustics in the fellowship hall, acoustic panels were put on the walls.
- FRC members went to the Center of Hope in Sioux Falls to provide a meal for those that came to an evening worship service.
- Our Christian sympathy was extended to Dori Ohm and the family of Kevin Ohm who passed away on June 8.
- New basement windows were installed at the parsonage as well as some trees were planted at the parsonage
- The bell tower was repainted by the Buildings and Grounds Task Force.
- The FRC website was revamped.

Highlights of Last Month (MAY)

- Memory work recitations were given by Kindergarten-8th Grade
- Sunday School teachers and youth leader recognized
- Recognized the three high school graduates: Layson Lucas, Emma Vandermeer, Marika Vander Wal
- Collin Vander Wal spoke at Sioux Valley Baccalaureate on May 11
- The bell choir members from First Lutheran in Volga came to present two numbers during the Mother's Day service (Robyn Mulder was a substitute player)
- The Congregational Care Team served doughnuts in honor of mothers
- Volga Christian School graduation was held at FRC
- FRC members are preparing for an entry in the Old Timer's Day parade as well as serving pie and ice cream in the park at noon
- Pastor Gary and Robyn continue their 'get-acquainted' visits.

Congratulations to Our Graduates:



The following students have completed the 8th grade in either a formal ceremony or simply by transitioning to high school:

Olivia Hove—Brookings

Marcus Olson—Volga Christian School

Justin Peters—Madison

Garrett Vander Wal—Home School

College Graduates:

Hattie Clapp graduated with a BSE in elementary education and minors in educational technology and reading as well as a kindergarten endorsement. Hattie will be teaching 5th grade in Estelline and plans to pursue a masters in educational administration.

Hunter Converse graduated on May 11 with a degree in power sports from Alexandria Technical Community College in Alexandria, MN. He started his job at J & L Harley Davidson in Sioux Falls on May 17.

Baylea Lucas received a certification in graphic design from the New York Institute of Art & Design. She will continue working at Spot On Printing in Volga while doing free lance graphic design and photography.

Dylan Mulder graduated from Northwestern College in Orange City, IA with a degree in computer science. He is in the process of searching for a job.

Cade Vander Wal graduated from Lake Area Technical College on May 13 with a degree in diesel technology. He is employed at T & S Repair in Bruce as he has done in the past months.

No matter what your future holds, may you always find peace as you follow God's perfect plan for your life.

*In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he shall direct your paths.*

Proverbs 3:6



Emma Grace Vandermeer, daughter of Sako and Wiekie Vandermeer was born on July 2, 2004. Emma graduated from Deubrook High School on Sunday, May 15. Her summer plans are to work on the family farm and spend time with her family.

In the fall, she will be attending Lake Area Technical College in Watertown majoring in dairy production and management.

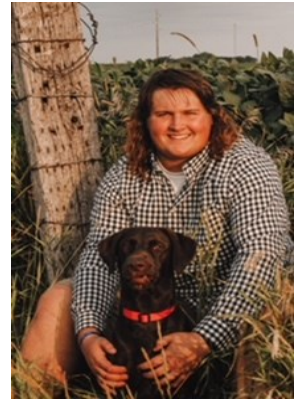
A verse from scripture that means a lot to Emma is Romans 8:35—*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?*

This verse has truly helped her all throughout high school. God reminded her and assured her that she was loved no matter what happened. There were times in high school where it was hard to feel loved, but it was comforting knowing that God was not going to leave her side!

Layson Andrew Lucas was born to Bruce and Dawn Lucas on July 23, 2004.

Layson graduated from Sioux Valley High School on Saturday, May 14. This summer he will be working for Priority Lawns to earn tuition money to attend Mitchell Technical College in the fall pursuing a degree in electrical maintenance and construction.

Proverbs 16:9 has special meaning to Layson—*In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.* This verse has brought him comfort and hope because he knows God has a plan for him.



Marika Jane Vander Wal daughter of Brad Vander Wal and Sara Vander Wal was born February 10, 2004. She will be attending Black Hills State University to major in graphic design.