

Let's Begin the New Year With God! (continued from front page)

- February 26— The praise band will begin the worship service with praise songs. Which one of the Ten Commandments will Pastor Gary expound on this week?  
You are invited and encouraged to worship at the Christian Reformed Church at 7 p.m. for the first of our six combined Lenten services.

New Members (continued)

Marv and Kayleen were married August 9, 1975 at First Lutheran in Volga with Marv joining First Lutheran that same year. They were blessed with two daughters, Melissa and Jessica. Melissa and her husband live by Elkton with their two children. Dayton (15) is a freshman at Deubrook High School and Jordyn (11) is in the 6th grade at Elkton School.  
Jessica and her two daughters live in Aurora. Kyarra (16) is a junior at Deubrook High School and Everly (9) is in the 4th grade in Deubrook.  
Marv and Kayleen love having the kids so close so they can attend their grandchildren's activities.  
Marv likes to read and put puzzles together. Kayleen enjoys scrapbooking, reading and singing. During the summer, they both enjoy outdoor activities and yard work.

Service Project for February and March

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 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 item(s) and return the card and item(s) to the tote provided. Deadline will be sometime in March.

Baby Lotion	Baby Soap	Wipes	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 balm	Gripe water	Sleepers

Gift cards to Wal-Mart to purchase pack-n-play  
Gifts cards to Amazon to purchase car seats

First Reformed Church, Volga, SD

February 2023

Glad Tidings

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

Lent Begins in Late February

- February 5— A mixed quartet will begin the service leading the congregation in singing hymns. Pastor Gary will continue in his series on the Ten Commandments. We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper. (Communion will be brought to home-bound members.) You are invited to a time of prayer at 5 p.m. facilitated by Dan Ostrem.
- February 12— A praise team will lead in singing some praise songs at the beginning of the service. Pastor Gary series of messages on the Ten Commandments will continue. Collin Vander Wal will be giving a short presentation on his work with the FCA.
- February 19— To begin the service, a men's group will lead in singing some hymns. Come and hear what Pastor Gary has to say about one of the Ten Commandments. The children's bell choir will be playing a hymn.  
A time of prayer will begin at 5 p.m. in the consistory room.
- February 22—The Ash Wednesday service will begin at 7:30 p.m. During that service you will receive an ash mark on your hand as well as Lenten medallion.  
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Your ongoing prayers for those in need of healing and those taking treatments would be appreciated: Jenn Greene, Howard Lindberg, Jodi Koerner, Bernita Kooima, Dawn Lucas, Bernice Mullett, Charles Sapp, Lorraine Schonewill and John Vande Weerd.

Upcoming Team Meetings

- Consistory—February 20
- MESA Team—February 21
- Worship Team—February 28

Sympathy to:



- Ron and Karen Knutson and family on the death of Ron’s father, Otis Knutson who died on Christmas Day.
- Kevin and Kari Vander Wal and family on the death of Kari’s father, Don Koopman who died on January 16.
- Keith Eggebraaten, a nephew of Marcia Carver, Edward and Ray Vande Wal died of ALS on Thursday, January 19. Keith was the son of Graydon and Mina (Vander Wal) Eggebraaten. Keith was baptized at FRC in 1956.

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 **\$200,000** in receipts, Hy-Vee will donate \$1,000 toward a MESA project yet to be determined. As of January 23, Dori has tabulated \$179,791.63 in total receipts. A REMINDER: Please bring in your gas receipts also. Keep eating , stay healthy and make every bite count!

Combined Lenten Services

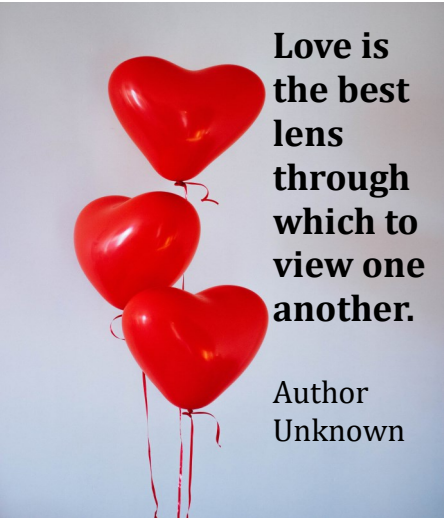
Once again we will be having combined Lenten services with the Christian Reformed Church on Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. Our theme will be the 7 Last Words of Christ. We will begin with this theme on Ash Wednesday, February 22 here at FRC and then alternate locations with the CRC until we end with the evening of Palm Sunday back at FRC. We hope you will join us for these special services.

Looking Back Ten Years..... 2013!!

- A combined Family Night and Ash Wednesday service was held on February 13
- Consistory members attended a retreat with other consistories of the East Central Cluster of Dakota Classis at Hamlin Reformed Church
- The opportunity to give electronically was offered to the congregation
- The February 27 Family Night pork loin meal was a free-will offering to go towards the summer mission trip to Winnebago, NE which will be in August

Highlights of Last Month (January)

- Dean Vander Wal was ordained and installed in the office of deacon. Charles Sapp was ordained and installed into the office of elder. Scott Vander Wal was installed as an elder at the January 15 service.
- Pastor Gary began a series of messages on the Ten Commandments.
- Parents of senior high youth met to discuss plans and consider fundraising options for Rocky Mountain High.
- Consistory members met on Saturday, January 21 for a visioning meeting. Pastor Gary and Robyn hosted a supper for outgoing and present consistory members along with spouses and staff in the fellowship hall.
- In recognition of Scott Vander Wal’s 37 years of faithful service as church treasurer, he was presented a “Faithful Servant” plaque.





## New Books in the Library New Christian Fiction

The Christian fiction books are now alphabetized by author.

Courting Calamity by Amanda Barratt, Gabrielle Meyer, Jennifer Uhlarik, Kathleen Y'Barbo

Despite determination to be strong and independent, four women of bygone days are in need of a hero.

Like the Wind by Robin Lee Hatcher

Olivia Ward arrived in Bethlehem Springs alone—with no job, no home and no money. Tyler Murphy knows what it's like to lose everything. Propelled by his history in the foster-care system, he's determined to root out dishonesty and protect the most vulnerable through his work as an investigator.

In Hatcher's latest novel, an antique diary, a family-fueled investigation and unexpected feelings collide to create a promise that's worthy fighting for.

A Thousand Tomorrows by Karen Kingsbury

Cody Gunner is a nationally renowned bull rider. A lifetime of hurt has helped him the best on the rodeo circuit, but it has also locked him in a prison of isolation. But all of that changes when he meets Ali Daniels, the most recognized barrel racer in her sport. Ali never expected to need more than her horse and the ride, but then Cody discovers the devastating secret that drives her.

Missing Isaac by Valerie Fraser Luesse

When Pete McClean loses his father, his friend Isaac is one of the few people he can lean on. Though their worlds are as different as black and white, friendship knows no color.

The Sowing Season by Kate Powner

Forced to sell the dairy farm he's worked his entire life to make successful, Gerrit Laninga, now sixty-three, doesn't know what to do with himself.

Fifteen year old Rae Walters is stricken with panic every time she climbs behind the wheel. But any failure, including passing her driver's test, jeopardized Plan 0, the detailed blueprint for high school and beyond.

As their paths cross and a friendship begins to form, Gerrit and Rae's lives changed in unexpected ways.



**Nicole Vande Weerd** was born in San Diego on a marine base camp. Her father is a Marine so a large part of her childhood included moving around. She went to high school and college in Southern Arkansas.

Nicole has a master of science in clinical counseling and is currently using that degree working for LifeSource. In her work, she guides families through organ tissue and eye donation.

Prior to that, she worked as a therapist for the military, which is how she met Nick who were both in Dover, Delaware. She was 'lucky' enough to meet a dairy farmer from South Dakota who became her husband on June 19, 2021. She commented that one thing about marrying into the Vande Weerd family is that it's large so all family are 'built in' friends and she spends much of her free time with them.

Daughter Ruby is 9 years old and is one of her biggest blessings and the source of most of her entertainment.

### **Marv and Kayleen Bleeker**

Marv was born in Watertown to Bernard and Dena Bleeker joining three older sisters: Marlene and Marcene (twins) and Marilyn. He was raised on a farm in the Castlewood area and attended Castlewood schools through the 6th grade before moving to Volga in 1965. He formerly attended Bemis CRC and later Volga CRC. After moving to Volga, Marv attended Volga Christian School and graduated from Sioux Valley High School in 1972. In the fall, Marv enrolled at Granite Falls Vocational School in the auto body department graduating in May 1974. He worked for Kjellsen's Body Shop, Dale's Alignment, Larson Manufacturing all in Brookings as well as Land O Lakes in Volga before retiring in 2007 due to health issues. Marv spent many years doing wood working. Some of his cherished projects are building three Barbie doll houses for his granddaughters and a barn for his grandson.

Kayleen was born in the Volga Hospital to Arne and Maris Knutson joining three older siblings; Larry, Kathy and Gary. She was raised on the family farm, six miles northwest of Volga. She was baptized and confirmed at First Lutheran in Volga. Kayleen attended country school for her first two years, then attended Sioux Valley graduating in 1974. After graduation, she enrolled at Lake Area in dental assisting and graduated in 1975. Kayleen worked for Dr. Blackford in Brookings and Dr. Spieker in Volga before opening a day care in her home in Volga which she did for five years. She then worked for 32 years at 3M in Brookings.