

An Alliance and Dakota Network Update

The Alliance of Reformed Churches continues to grow. Officially we have 149 churches and more are in the process of joining. The growth has demanded changes in the leadership structure and the board is working toward that goal. Some of the familiar faces are in different roles or carrying different responsibilities. New faces will be added to the structure soon. Needless to say, starting a denomination from scratch will produce some growing pains.

The Dakota Network has also expanded. We are currently at 73 churches with 13-16 likely to join soon. This also has caused some growing pains. Dakota Network will likely birth some new networks in the next year or so. Currently the network covers an area from 8 previous classes including churches as far away as Michigan and Eastern Iowa. (I guess it's nice to be popular). Churches have flocked to Dakota Network because we took the lead in leaving the RCA. Our leadership, including Seth Sundstrom, Brenda Van Beek and the Admin Team should be commended.

These are the numbers that we can share, but the spiritual side of things is even more important. The Alliance continues to build Christ's Kingdom with emphasis on Christ-centered ministry. There will be a gathering of Alliance church representatives in August, celebrating what God has done and continues to do for the Alliance. Please continue to pray for our new denomination.

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. We have reached the **\$200,000** goal in receipts. Hy-Vee has sent a \$1,000 check. MESA will decide at their next meeting which worthy mission will be the recipient.

As of May 24, Dori has tabulated \$11,325.55 in total receipts.

A REMINDER: Please bring in your gas receipts also.

Keep eating, stay healthy and make every bite count!

First Reformed Church, Volga, SD

June 2023

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 4**— A mixed quartet will begin the service by singing some hymns. We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper together. John and Linda Vande Weerd's family will be serving cake after the morning service in honor of John and Linda's 50th wedding anniversary.
- **June 11**— To begin our service, the praise team will lead us in singing some praise songs. The family of Keith and Shirley Van Duyn will be serving anniversary cake in recognition of Keith and Shirley's 50th wedding anniversary. 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!
- **June 18** — It's Father's Day! The men's group will be leading us in singing some hymns to begin the service. Pastor Gary will bring a Father's Day message.
- **June 25**—As we begin the morning worship service, the praise band will lead the congregation in praise songs.





Your ongoing prayers for those in need of healing and those taking treatments would be appreciated: Jen Greene, Jodi Koerner, Bernita Kooima, Dawn Lucas

- Harold Beukelman—surgery on his thumb
- Sandi Franklin—hospitalized with an infection
- Whitney Goetsch—will begin SOT therapy for Lyme’s Disease
- Wayne Mans—ankle surgery
- Bill Van Beek—broken ribs

Upcoming Team Meetings

- June 6—MESA Team
- June 19—Consistory

Sympathy:



To: Harold and Betty Beukelman and families on the death of Harold’s brother, Bernie of Corsica who passed away on Friday, May 19. His funeral service was held in Corsica on Tuesday, May 23.

Center of Hope Breakfast Fundraiser

You are invited to a breakfast fundraiser at First Christian Reformed Church (2901 E. 26th Street) in Sioux Falls on Saturday, June 24 from 7:30 a.m.—11 a.m. There will be a freewill donation. There is also a silent auction as well as a bike ride . For more information, check out the poster on the bulletin board.

From Mother Teresa

God is the friend of silence.

Trees, flowers and grass grow in silence.

See the stars, moon and sun, how they move in silence.

Looking Back Ten Years—June 2013

- An Old Timer’s Day worship service was held at the Sioux Valley gym. Our praise team led in singing and Pastor Dave preached about being still before God.
- Congratulations to Justin and Michelle Vande Weerd who were married on June 15.

Highlight of Last Month (May 2023)

- The MESA Team served cookies in honor of mothers on Mother’s Day.
- We welcomed Jim and Jen Greene and their children Samantha and Danelyn on Mother’s Day as new members of FRC.
- The Volga Ministerial Association sponsored a Baccalaureate service for the 2023 Sioux Valley seniors on Wednesday, May 10. Preston Vander Wal was one of the graduates. He was also recognized at a Sunday morning service and was given a graduation booklet.
- Between 14 and 16 ladies enjoyed parts of (or all of) Ladies Day Out on Friday, May 25 in Brookings. We enjoyed caffeine drinks at Kool Beans, a guided tour of Medary Acres Greenhouse, noon lunch at First Lutheran Mission Coffee House and some boutique shopping. A special thank you is extended to Julie Jefferis who made the arrangements!

What If....

What if, GOD couldn’t take the time to bless us today because we couldn’t take the time to thank HIM yesterday?

What if ,GOD decided to stop leading us tomorrow because we didn’t follow HIM today?

What if, GOD took away the Bible tomorrow because we would not read it today?

What if, GOD would not hear us today because we would not listen to HIM yesterday?

What if ,GOD answered our prayers the way we answer HIS call to service?

What if, GOD met our needs the way we give HIM our lives???

Welcome

Tim, Whitney, Russell and Eliot Goetsch joined the FRC fellowship on Palm Sunday, April 2 by re-affirmation of their faith.

Tim and Whitney grew up in the Revillo, SD area. Tim earned an Associates of Applied Science in Robots from Lake Area Tech in Watertown. He continued his

education at SDSU, receiving a bachelors in Manufacturing Engineering Technology in 2013. Tim began his career at 3M in Brookings in 2011 and is employed as a Systems Specialist.

Whitney attended NSU in Aberdeen for one year of fine arts and later continued her education at SDSU pursuing early childhood education. She worked at Culligan's during college, later at a day care, and then was a kindergarten aid at the Brookings Boys and Girls Club.

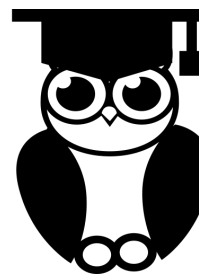
Whitney and Tim were married in 2011 and after the birth of their child, Whitney decided to stay home as a homemaker. They now have two children, Russell (8) and Eliot (5). In their spare time, Whitney enjoys drawing, painting and creative arts. She is currently working on a children's illustrated series and is homeschooling both children. Tim enjoys woodworking and home improvement projects and teaching the boys about it all. Together, they enjoy kayaking at the lake, going on walks, fishing and watching their children participate in t-ball, swimming lessons, and Tae Kwon Do. They moved to their current home in Volga in 2019 and are enjoying the local community.

History of Father's Day

The nation's first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910 in the state of Washington. However, it was not until 1972—58 years after President Woodrow Wilson made Mother's Day official—that the day honoring fathers became a nationwide holiday in the United States.

*Gracious Father,
bless fathers and all father figures
with such love and faithfulness
that children flourish and grow in uprightness and joy.
Bless those who long to be fathers
and those for whom this day is difficult.
Amen.*

Congratulations to our Graduates:



Hope Van Hoepen graduated from the 8th grade at Sioux Valley Schools in a ceremony held on Thursday, May 25.

Danelyn Greene was among the 8th grade graduates in Estelline.

Daymein Lucas graduated from Dakota Wesleyan University in December with a degree in entrepreneurial leadership. He is working at Banner in Brookings.

Alicia Vander Wal graduated from SDSU on May 6 with a BS in agricultural science and minors in agricultural business,

agriculture marketing and animal science. She is now employed at the Volga/Bruce Ag Center as the office manager.

Ashley Vandermeer acquired a BA in business administration from Dordt University in Sioux Center, Iowa on May 11. She is now working at Runnings in Brookings.



Preston Vander Wal, son of Kelly and Vickie Vander Wal graduated from Sioux Valley High School on Saturday, May 13 with honors.

Preston is working at Daktronics in Brookings this summer. He is also involved in Brookings Community Theater and is a worker at T.E.C. (Teens Encounter Christ).

He plans to study aerospace engineering at SDSU.

A motto verse for Preston is Proverbs 27:17—*Iron sharpens iron—so should a man sharpen another.*