

- Upcoming Worship Services** (continued from front page)
- **July 27**—As we begin the morning worship service, the praise band will lead the congregation in praise songs. Wayne Fischer from the Arlington area will be our guest pastor. Darwin Husby will be bringing a ministry of praise. (Pastor Gary will be with the junior high youth at Power Connection.)


**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. We HAVE REACHED THE \$200,000 TARGET!! Dori has submitted the paper work to Hy-Vee. MESA Team will decide which project will be funded with the \$1,000 check from Hy-Vee.  
A REMINDER: Please bring in your gas receipts also.  
Keep eating, stay healthy and make every bite count!

**Power Connection**  
On July 25, 15 youth and three adults will load up a rental van and a SUV headed to St. Paul, MN for Power Connection. Power Connection is our denomination's junior high youth event. Students will hear a speaker share about the "Best Life Ever" while also enjoying the band, Orchard Hill Collective.  
Please be in prayer for the students and leaders who will be going. We want this to be both a fun and a spiritual experience. We're excited to see what the Lord will do in the lives of our youth. Your prayers will help lay the groundwork so God can achieve His goals.

√Forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

√Spend so much time improving yourself that you have no time left to criticize others.

√Give everyone a smile.



First Reformed Church, Volga, SD

July 2025

Glad Tidings

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

Luke 2:10

Upcoming Worship Services


It is not just the government that grants us freedom to worship. Even more importantly, our Lord has set us free to worship as well. That is what we were created to do.

• **July 6**— A mixed quartet will begin the service by leading the congregation in singing some hymns. A Kleinjan family member will provide praise ministry! Pastor Gary will continue with his sermon series ‘Beat the Heat’.

• **July 13**— To begin our service, the praise team will lead us in singing some praise songs. A group will be going to Dakota Sun at 11 a.m. for a time of worship and fellowship. We will hear a third message from Pastor Gary on his series ‘Beat the Heat’.

• **July 20**— The men’s group will be leading us in singing some hymns to begin the service. Pastor Gary will conclude his sermon series on ‘Beat the Heat’.

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Your ongoing prayers for those in need of healing and those taking treatments would be appreciated: Gene Bjorklund, Whitney Goetsch, Jodi Koerner, Bernita Kooima, Dawn Lucas, Bob Olson, Emily Schaefer, Joel Schonewill, Amy Vandermeer, Harold Van Hoepen and Ray Vander Wal

- Lois Kleinjan was hospitalized with a compression fracture in her back.
- John Vande Weerd had an angiogram and stent repaired while on vacation at Branson, MI.

### Sympathy to:



Bob Olson, Jeff & Sara Olson, Elisa & Jon Koeniguer, Melanie & Dan Gerdes and Andrea & Scott Wheelhouse on the death of their wife and mother, Joan Olson on Saturday, June 21. Joan is also survived by her 11 grandchildren. May God's strength comfort you with His peace.

Polly and Dean Vander Wal and family on the death of Polly's mother, Arlene Post, Chandler, MN who passed away on Tuesday, June 24. Please pray for all family and friends who feel this loss.

Marv and Kayleen Bleeker on the passing of their brother-in-law, Gus Hernandez. His wife, Marilyn Bleeker Hernandez passed away in May. May God's sustaining peace surround the family.

### Upcoming Team Meetings

- July 8—MESA Team
- July 21—Consistory
- August 19 - Worship Team
- August 26—Buildings and Grounds Team

### Looking Back Ten Years—July 2015

- An outdoor worship service was held in the parking lot on July 19 celebrating God's creation.
- Several FRC members worshiped with the residents at the Living Stone Church in Springfield on July 24.

### Highlight of Last Month (June 2025)

- About \$1200 was raised at the pie and ice cream booth at Old Timers Day for the Option 1 program in Brookings
- A community hymn sing was held on Sunday evening of Old Timers Day. Thank you to Bill Van Beek, Foster and Ellie Popken, Joyce Post, Carol Kleinjan, Dori Ohm and Michelle Vander Wal for directing/leading and accompanying the hymns.
- The Search Committee had their first meeting as they start the process of searching for another ministry person here at FRC.

### Search Team Begins Their Work

We are pleased to announce the formation of a search team to find our **Director/Associate Pastor for Youth and Family Ministry.**

#### Meet the Search Team—

We invite you to keep the following team members in your prayers as they begin their work: **Jason Hove, Olivia Hove, Brittany Knapp, Preston Liedtke, Caleb Schaefer, Michelle Vande Weerd, Dori Ohm (Chair) and Scott Vander Wal (Consistory Rep).**

The team has met for their first meeting and will be meeting again in July. Periodic updates on their progress will be shared as the process moves forward.

### GREETINGS FROM RAJ from Bangladesh (Raj is 4 years old)

Dear Sponsor Greetings and love from Raj. He and his family are doing well. How are you and your family doing? He likes to hang out. What do you like to do? Please keep praying for them to stay well. He prays for you, too. - Raj (with help from his writer tutor)

Some questions that he answered: My mother's name is Selina Hasda; my father's name is Sagor Soren: my siblings from oldest to youngest are—Abinas Soren and Joy Soren; my family lives in a village; my food is prepared by mom; my favorite thing to do with my family is hang out and eat. (A new picture is posted on the bulletin board.)

## In God We Trust..... (Reprinted from The Rebirth of America)

*“A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we came from or what we have been about.” - Woodrow Wilson*



Every coin minted in the United States bears, along with the bust of a past hero, these words: LIBERTY-IN GOD WE TRUST.

It was not lightly that our forefathers chose these inseparable words, for they knew the tremendous cost and sacrifice that had been paid to secure our freedom. In gratitude, they continually acknowledged that God had made and preserved our nation. They were confident that God was blessing their endeavors because

they acknowledged Him and sought His aid in all their doings. They warned future generations that the day God was not earnestly revered in America, she would become a byword among nations.

We would do well today to review their urgent admonitions and the wisdom that was theirs when they forged the greatest and most prosperous nation in all history.

Americans have lost their way in part because they do not know their own Christian heritage. It is the side of early America that has been either ignored or distorted by the history books.

Several times in the history of our nation widespread revival has put God's people back on course. Each time it has reversed a downward moral trend in society and ultimately unleashed profound social impact.

If many of America's citizens have missed it, then let today's generation know now the mighty sweep of spiritual events in our heritage and the story of how, and when, and why, "God shed His grace on thee."

## Original Freedom

(Scriptures in order of occurrence: Genesis 2:16-17, 3:6, 2 Peter 2:19b; Galatians 5:13a, Romans 6:20a, 22a, 8:2; 1 Corinthians 8:9, Galatians 5:1b, Hebrews 13:5a, James 1:25a, John 8:32; 2 Corinthians 3:17b; Romans 6:22; 1 Peter 2:16, John 8:35)

*And the Lord God commanded...You are free to eat from any tree in the garden. Except you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.*

*When the woman saw that the fruit was good...and pleasing to the eye,...She took...and ate it.*

*Man...or woman... is a slave to whatever has mastered him.*

*But you...were called to be free.*

*You were slaves to sin.*

*But now...you have been set free from sin.*

*Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.*

*Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak.*

*Do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*

*Keep your lives free from the love of money. Be content with what you have.*

*Look intently into the perfect law that gives freedom.*

*Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*

*Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*

*You have been set free from sin... and have become slaves to God; the result is eternal life.*

*Live as free men and women. Live as servants of God.*

*Remember, if the Son sets you free... you will be free indeed.*

(written by Debbie Salter Goodwin)