

Upcoming Worship Services (continued from front page)

- **August 24** — OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE at the Doc and Roma Peek Park in Volga beginning at **10:30 a.m.** A meal will be provided immediately following the service. Please bring a lawn chair. In case of inclement weather, the service will be held in the church sanctuary with the meal served in the fellowship hall. Invite a friend to join you.
- **August 31**—It’s a 5th Sunday so the Worship Team will begin the service by leading the congregation in singing some hymns.

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. As of July 21, Dori has tabulated \$5,166.93 in total receipts. A REMINDER: Please bring in your gas receipts also. Keep eating, stay healthy and make every bite count!

Budgets for the 2026 Church Year

TEAM CHAIRS—please be thinking about a date for a meeting to prepare a budget for the 2026 church year. It would be helpful if your team could meet between September 9 and October 14. Your proposed budget work sheets will be in your team mailboxes **AFTER** September 8. Consistory will begin looking at the budgets at their October 20 meeting. Congregational meeting is scheduled for December 7 immediately following the morning service.

First Reformed Church, Volga, SD

August 2025

Glad Tidings

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

Upcoming Worship Services

Here is what we can look forward to when worshipping the Lord in August—AND we have 5 Sundays to worship this month!

- **August 3**— A mixed quartet will begin the service by leading the congregation in singing some hymns. We will celebrate the Lord’s Supper together.
- **August 10**— 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.
- **August 17**— The men’s group will be leading us in singing some hymns to begin the service. Retired Pastor Irwin Van Leeuwen will lead the morning service today as Pastor Gary and Robyn are on vacation.



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

- Bob Olson had surgery to removed an obstruction in his bowel. He also spent some time in ICU with a collapsed lung and is now recovering at home.

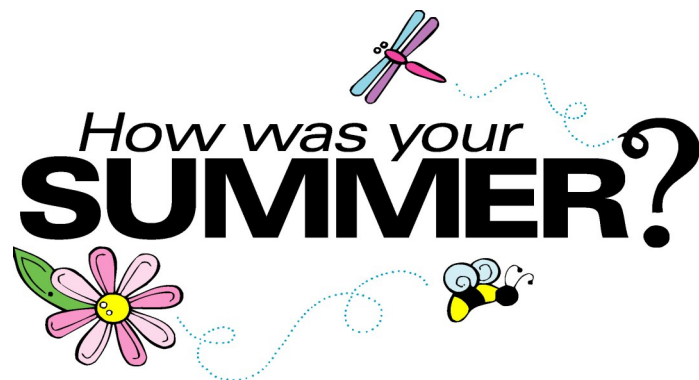
Congratulations to:



Sam and Tiffany Zenner on the birth of their daughter, Lily Gene on July 8. She was welcomed home by brothers Theo and Zeke.
Congrats also the grandparents, Gene and Michelle Bjorklund.
Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Upcoming Team Meetings

- August 5—MESA Team
- August 18—Consistory
- August 19 - Worship Team
- August 25—Education Team
- August 26—Buildings and Grounds Team



Looking Back Ten Years—August 2015

- Several ladies enjoyed a Ladies Night Out at Kay Christianson's home on Lake Hendricks on August 12. A light meal was served at 6:30. Pontoon rides were available followed by s'mores and singing around the camp fire.
- An outdoor worship service was held in the church parking lot on August 16 followed by a potluck meal, inflatables, and 9-Square-in-the-Air.
- Carol Kleinjan led the program "Little Feet for Jesus" where five little ones were enrolled in the Gifts for the Children program. They were *Isabella Renea Kaske*, great granddaughter of Bernice Mullett, *Wyatt Ivan Mullett* and *Gavin Alexander Ponce*, great grandsons of Bernice Mullett. Grandmother Dori Ohm enrolled *Jase John Vande Weerd*. *Sawyer Ransom Franklin*, grandson of John and Linda Vande Weerd and Larry and Sandi Franklin was also enrolled. An offering for Option 1 was received to honor our children and extend love and support to other children through Option 1.
- A dozen members worshipped with the Living Stone Church inside the Mike Durfee prison in Springfield on a Sunday evening.

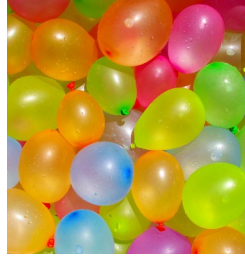
Highlight of Last Month (July 2025)

- Pastor Gary concluded a series of messages on **BEAT THE HEAT**. Specific topics included Persecution, Societal Pressure, Difficult Assignments, Friction with Other Believers.
- Fifteen junior high youth and three adults attended Power Connection in St. Paul.
- Through a generous donation from an anonymous donor, we have been able to purchase a used set of handbells for our congregation.
- We had some guests providing praise ministry in July. Among them were Cora Kleinjan, Lucille Kleinjan, Lucas Kleinjan, Marion Read, Roni Lovette, and Darwin Husby.

Conscience is God's built-in warning system.
Be very happy when it hurts you.
Be very worried when it doesn't.

So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.
Acts 24:16

**IT'S KICKOFF
TIME!!!**



Youth Groups Will Be Starting Soon!

The Senior High Youth Group will meet for the kick-off meeting on Wednesday, August 20 at 7 p.m.

The Junior High Youth Group (6th-8th grade) will begin their fall season with a kick-off meeting on Wednesday, August 27 at 7 p.m.

Sunday School Begins in September

A Sunday School Kick-off will be held on Sunday, September 7. The classes will meet for lessons beginning on September 14.

Be watching for more details on these upcoming events.

Prayer Walk

On August 23, our church will once again hold our annual prayer walk. The MESA Team has maps prepared for groups to walk around Volga to meet our friends and neighbors. We will knock on doors and pray for the needs of each household. There's a place for everyone to participate. We need volunteers to lead groups and also those who walk along side as support people. A prayer support team will be stationed at the church. Be thinking and praying about this opportunity. A sign up sheet will be available next week.

A preparation meeting for the prayer walk will be held on Sunday morning, August 10 immediately following the worship service.



Back to School Blessing

Dear Heavenly Father,

*For all the children returning to school, send your Holy Spirit
as their guide and protector.*

*Keep them free from danger and unnecessary harm. Put our sons (grandsons),
daughters (granddaughters) in the right place, at the right time, to receive your grace.*

Let them learn and grow strong. May the presence of your Spirit fill their hearts.

Help us to mature as parents, grandparents and caregivers.

Bless every family, O Lord. We entrust our children to you, dear God.

Since from the beginning, they are yours to keep.

In the name of the greatest Son of All, Jesus Christ, Amen.

(reprinted from prayerforanxiety.com)

A Prayer for our Teachers

Dear God,

Thank you for the amazing teachers who have given their lives to serve our children.

*As they prepare for the new year, fill them with strength to lead, grace to guide and
hope to thrive in their classroom.*

*Bless them beyond measure for their willingness to pour to the next generation
through education.*

Amen.

(reprinted from graceformoms.com)

A Back to School Prayer from a Child

Dear God, use my eyes to see new friends,

Open my ears to hear my teacher.

Open my mind to learn new things.

Let my heart remember YOU are near when I'm afraid.

I want to shine your light so bright in my school.

Amen.

- Courtney DeFeo