

## Upcoming Worship Services (continued from front page)

- **December 14**—A group will be going to Dakota Sun at 11 a.m. to worship with residents there. Those involved in the Christmas program will be practicing in the sanctuary. The adult class that meets in the sanctuary will not be meeting until January 4.
- **December 21**—The Sunday School Christmas program will be held during the morning worship service. Pastor Gary will share a short meditation. You are encouraged to bring a plate of Christmas ‘goodies’ to share in the fellowship hall following the morning service.
- **December 24** - Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held at **6 p.m.** The designated offering for this evening will be for the Brookings Area Back Pack program especially Sioux Valley students).
- **December 28**—Join us at 9:30 a.m. as we close out the year together. There will be NO Sunday School this week. Cody Moret, a member of Faith Reformed Church and also serves as the president of the Midwest Network, will be our guest speaker while Pastor Gary and Robyn are on vacation.

## 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.

As of November 23, Dori has tabulated \$33,186.23 in total receipts.

A REMINDER: Please bring in your gas receipts also.

Keep eating, stay healthy and make every bite count!

## E-mail and Texting Prayer Lines

If you would like to be added to the text message list as well as the prayer line list, please contact Susan. It is your responsibility and privilege to check your e-mail to stay abreast of the prayer requests and whether a service/meeting has been cancelled due to inclement weather.

The lines are only effective if we have the correct address or phone number. Please contact Susan if something has changed.

We prefer to only send prayer requests for immediate family members of FRC members and regular attendees.

Young people are encouraged to be included on the list.

If you have a prayer request, you may contact Pastor Gary or Susan.

## First Reformed Church, Volga, SD

December 2025

# Glad Tidings

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

## No Matter What Else is Happening in the World, Christmas is Coming!

Here are the details about our services in the month of December at FRC.

- **December 7**— The praise team will begin the worship service by leading the congregation in singing some praise songs/Christmas carols. Jamie Tucker will be providing praise ministry. Pastor Gary will continue his series of messages “Unhurried Christmas”. The annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately after the morning service. The Sunday School children will be dismissed to their various classes and program practice. Prayer Time will be held in the consistory room at 5 p.m. You are invited and encouraged to come and pray for needs of the congregation, state and world.
- **December 14**— A mixed quartet will begin our service by leading us in singing some hymns/Christmas carols. Pastor Gary will continue his series of messages on “Unhurried Christmas”. We will be celebrating the sacrament of Holy Communion on the 2nd Sunday, rather than the first Sunday because of the congregational meeting. The children of Charles and Ruth Sapp will be serving cake after the service in honor of their parents 50th wedding anniversary.



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Your ongoing prayers for those in need of healing and those taking treatments would be appreciated: Whitney Goetsch, Jodi Koerner, Bernita Kooima, Dawn Lucas, Emily Schaefer, Joel Schonewill, Carolyn Tucker, Amy Vandermeer, Harold Van Hoepen, Lee Vande Weerd

- George Cotton had two other surgeries due to complications from his hip surgery
- Emily Schaefer had same day surgery to improve Emily's condition.
- Harold Beukelman had a mild stroke followed by a short hospital stay.
- Lois Kleinjan was able to return to her after receiving therapy at ULC in Brookings.

### Congratulations to:



Carson and Baylea (Lucas) Van Beek on the birth of their son, Daxton Gene on November 10. Congrats also to grandparents, Bruce and Dawn Lucas.

Jakob and Samantha on the birth of their daughter, Lenna Joy on November 21. Congratulations to grandparents, Jim and Jen Greene, Aunt Danelyn and Great Grandmother Dar Ludwig!

May God be with these new parents on their wonderful journey into parenthood!

*Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6*



Sterling and Chloe (Vande Weerd) Johnson who were united in marriage on November 15 at FRC. May God's blessing be upon them as they begin a new life together as husband and wife.

### Upcoming Team Meetings

- December 2 – MESA Team
- December 15 — Consistory

### Looking Back Ten Years—December 2015

- Alicia and Preston Vander Wal lit the second Advent Candle –the candle of LOVE
- The congregational meeting was held on Sunday evening, December 6. The 2016 budget as well as the by-law change concerning the definition of marriage were approved. Keith Van Duyn was chosen as elder. Wayne Mans and Kelly Vander Wal were chosen as deacons.
- The Congregational Care Task Force organized a group to go Christmas caroling to FRC shut-ins and nursing homes.
- A bake sale was held at the Beta Psi Gallery of Gifts providing a profit of \$761.
- The Sunday School Christmas program entitled “Unfrozen” told the Christmas story with familiar carols and other songs from the popular Disney movie “Frozen” (but with new words.) The program was held on Sunday evening, December 20.
- The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service was held at 7 p.m. Pastor Dave preached a message about how Jesus grew up from the “root of Jesse”.
- Pastor Fred Wilgenberg was our guest pastor on December 27.

### Highlight of Last Month (November 2025)

- Pastor appreciation and recognition of new members dinner was held on
- Sunday, November 12
- The Congregational Care Team gave everyone an opportunity to send words of encouragement to the college students
- The MESA Team organized a supper which was served after an evening service at Freedom's Gate in Sioux Falls, (a ministry FRC supports for those exiting a prison).
- The Kaleb and Erika Schelhaas family (Nash and Krue) were received as members of FRC. Their youngest son, Krue received the sacrament of baptism.



TO: John, Lee, and Rich Vande Weerd families on the death of their sister, Anna Johanson. May the God of all comfort be near to all the families.

# Letter from our Compassion Child, Nelly

Dear Friends,

Let me greet you with the peace of the Lord, hoping that you are all doing well. I wanted to share that my family and I are in good health. In June, I had the opportunity to attend a camp organized by the project, where I had an amazing time. I learned many new things, made some new friends, and took part in activities that helped me connect with others and have fun at the same time. It was an experience I will never forget and that taught me the importance of teamwork.

At my school, at the end of August, they introduced new materials for the biology, chemistry and physics labs. Now we'll be able to do more complete and hands-on experiments. Little by little, my school is growing and developing, as it is still a new school.

I also wanted to take this opportunity in this letter to ask you a few questions about your families and church. ***In your families, do have any special traditions that you enjoy sharing? And in your church, do you have any spiritual advice for young people who want to grow in their faith?***

I would also like to ask you to pray for me and my family, especially for my older sister, who is planning to start university next year, but is still unsure about what career to pursue. I would like you to pray for her, so that God may guide her and give her wisdom to choose the right path.

With nothing more to add, I say goodbye to you,

Sincerely, Nelly

## ***NOTICE THE TWO QUESTIONS THAT NELLY HAS ASKED!***

Please let Susan know your answers to her questions by January 4 so your answers can be forwarded to her.

Thank you in advance for your participation in the next correspondence.

# Letter from our Compassion Child, Raj

First, Raj and his family send you sincere love and greetings of marigold flowers. Raj is well with his family. Jhe wants to know how you are. Raj lives with his grandmother at his house. He thanked you because you are by his side. Please pray for Raj, and his family. Finally, he concluded by wishing you well.

Yours sincerely, Tutor on behalf of Raj

*Check out the bulletin board for the pictures they included in their letters.*

# Dakota Sun Christmas Program/Fellowship

We are looking for a volunteer to present a Christmas program at Dakota Sun on Thursday, December 11 at 2 p.m.

AND — more ladies are welcome to fellowship with the residents by joining in singing and visiting with the residents during their coffee time. It might be **US** sitting there some day wondering if anybody is going to come to visit and sing Christmas carols.

The question was asked of the residents at the November program what they are most thankful for. Two of them replied, ‘ the people that come to visit and the friendly caring staff.’ Let’s be one of those people that visit!

I WILL USE THIS ONLY IF THERE IS ROOM.

## **Would You Believe....A Stable?** written by Dorothy Streeter, December 2020)

The innkeeper sighed when he saw the young couple  
To accommodate them, he was not able.  
For Bethlehem town was full to bursting -  
So he said, “Would you consider a stable?”

Listen carefully—a miracle happened that night -  
It’s true, my friend, its’s surely no fable!  
When the Lord of heaven and earth came down,  
He was born in—would you believe a stable?

Mother Mary held Him close and softly sang,  
Gentle Joseph stood watch over the manger;  
There was “angel-song” on that star-lit night -  
Shepherds came to worship the new little ‘stranger’!

That crude, rugged shed of comforts was bare,  
They had not a bed, nor chair, nor a table;  
Still they were content, and thankful to God  
For He has provided a place .... In the stable!

Give glory to God, as the angels did,  
And the Wise Men, who came from afar;  
Taking note of an ancient prophecy,  
To Judea they came, following a star!

Think of that night, when the Christ-child was born -  
Can you truly take it all in—Are you able?  
God loved us so much, He was willing to send  
His Son Jesus, to be born in a stable!