

(Continued from front page)

- **March 22**— The praise band will begin the service by leading the congregation in some praise songs and providing praise ministry. This is Cadet Sunday. You are invited and encouraged to attend the combined Lenten service at CRC at 6:30 p.m. with Pastor Kelle bringing the message.
- **March 29—PALM SUNDAY**—The children will be walking around the sanctuary waving the palm branches as well as providing the ministry of praise. FRC will be hosting the last combined Lenten service. A time of fellowship will follow. (A work group will be assigned to provide refreshments for the evening.)

Greetings from Raj—One of our Compassion Children

Dear Friends,

Raj and his family send you heartfelt love and greetings of night-flowering jasmine-flowers. He and his family are doing well, and they hope you and your family are also well. Receiving your letter made Raj and his family very happy. He wants to tell you that in Bangladesh it is very cold now, and during this season he enjoys drinking date palm sap and eating bhapa pitha (steamed rice cake with jaggery).

Raj also sends you advance Christmas greetings and wishes that your time may be joyful.

Yours sincerely, Tutor on behalf of Raj

(Raj's birthday was February 3 and is now 5 years old)

How I Have Fun —

1. During free time, I like to...play games
2. I usually play with...football
3. When I am outside, I like to...run around and eat tasty foods
4. When I am inside, I like to ...watch Motu-Patlu cartoons

Spring Arrives Friday, March 2026 at

9:46 a.m. CT

**Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday,
March 8!**



First Reformed Church, Volga, SD

March 2026

Glad Tidings

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

March into Lent and Holy Week

- **March 1**— The praise team will begin the service by leading the congregation in singing some praise songs. Robyn Mulder will provide ministry of praise. The combined Lenten service will be held at FRC at 6:30 with Pastor Kelle bringing the message.
- **March 8**— A mixed quartet will lead in singing some hymns at the beginning of the service. The bell choir will be playing . A group (Sunday school classes –grades 6-12) will be going to Dakota Sun to present a short service there and fellowship with the residents. You are invited to attend the combined Lenten service at CRC with Pastor Gary preaching on “The Promise in the Curse”.
- **March 15**— To begin the service, the men’s group will lead the congregation in singing some hymns. This will be our Prayer for Crops and Industry service. The combined Lenten service will be held at OPC with Pastor Gary bringing a message from Romans 5. — Continued on back page





IN NEED OF PRAYER

Your ongoing prayers for those in need of healing and those taking treatments would be appreciated: Larry Dyer, Gary and Gloria Egeberg, Whitney Goetsch, Gene and Lois Kleinjan, Jodi Koerner, Bernita Kooima, Dawn Lucas, Joel Schonewill, Lee Vande Weerd, Harold Van Hoepen, Amy Vandermeer

Larry Dyer had a heart valve procedure
Tom Cotton had an appendectomy
Vickie Vander Wal had an appendectomy
Kevin Warne was injured by a cow and has a broken scapula and other injuries
VernaMae Van Maanen was in the Brookings Hospital for retention of fluid

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Upcoming Task Force Meetings

- March 9—Consistory—notice change of week due to schedules. This will now be an ongoing change.
- March 10—Worship Team
- March 24—MESA Team
- April 8—Buildings and Grounds Team



Our Sympathy to:

Bill and Deanna Santema and family upon the passing of Bill's brother, Lenny Santema.

Associate Pastor Search Update

As we approach graduation season, we recognize this as a meaningful time of transition and new beginnings—not only for students, but also for our church. The Search Team has met and prayerfully decided to broaden our search into other communities, seminaries, and ministry networks as we continue seeking the associate pastor whom God is preparing for FRC.

We ask our church family to join us in persistent prayer. Pray that God would lead the right spiritual leader to us—someone eager to grow with our congregation, minister to our members, and serve our wider community with passion and humility.

Our team is energized by this next step and deeply committed to finding the candidate God has already chosen. We also invite you to partner with us in a practical way: please share our Facebook job posting and tag your family and friends. Your connections may help us reach someone we otherwise wouldn't.

Above all continue to pray. Pray for wisdom, unity and discernment as we follow God's leading. We trust that He will guide us to the person who will walk alongside our congregation in the next chapter of ministry.

With gratitude for your prayers, The Associate Pastor Search Team
Jason & Olivia Hove, Brittany Knapp, Preston Liedtke, Dori Ohm, Caleb Schaefer,
Michelle Vande Weerd, Scott Vander Wal

Looking Back Ten Years..... March 2016!

- Service project for the month of March was to serve lunch to the Friendship Class
- Ladies' World Day of Prayer was held at Calvary Presbyterian Church
- A free-will donation soup supper was held prior to the Para-Praise Concert on March 13. Proceeds will be used for the community to develop our property east of the church into a park.
- The donation tower money will be used to purchase playground equipment for the new East Side Park.
- We mourned the loss of Brent Vander Wal, son of Ray and Marlys on March 11
- The Arlington Brass played several numbers before, during and after the service
- Family Night featured a taco night with proceeds going to the youth group. As part of the fundraiser, baskets were auctioned off at 6:15 p.m.
- Children participated in the palm-waving parade
- Held a Maundy Thursday service with a Seder Meal with a sample of Passover foods (not a full course meal)
- Good Friday service compared Moses' response to the people's sin at Mt. Sinai with Jesus' response
- Easter Sunrise service was held at 8 a.m. on March 27 followed by a breakfast served by the Worship Team

Highlights of Last Month (February 2025)

- The Souper Bowl offering received for Bibles for the FCA amounted to \$1107!
- Pastor Gary concluded his series of messages on *What is Truth?* He is now delivering a series of messages on joy (in suffering, serving, believing, and unity and peace.)

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. When we reach **\$200,000** in receipts, Hy-Vee will donate \$1,000 toward a MESA project yet to be determined. As of **February 17**, Dori has tabulated **\$61,761.77** in total receipts. A REMINDER: Please bring in your gas receipts also. Keep eating, stay healthy and make every bite count.



Mike, Amanda, Jackson and Thomas Triebwasser were welcomed into the FRC membership on January 18. Their son, Thomas received the sacrament of infant baptism.

Mike, son of Kevin and Tanya (Post) Triebwasser was born and raised in the Volga area.

Amanda (daughter of Sarah Sneed who will be joining FRC soon) was born in Tracy, CA.

They have two sons, Jackson (who will turn 5 in June)

and Thomas (will have a birthday on April Fool's Day !)

Mike farms with the family and Amanda is employed at a legal firm in Brookings.

Their biggest hobby and interest is horses.

Jim Guthmiller also joined the FRC family on January 18. Jim was born and raised in the Tripp, SD area. He is a Tripp High School graduate and attended Black Hills State and USD at Springfield. He is an electrician and likes to fish and work with wood.

Pray for Crops and Industry Service

This service will be incorporated into the morning service on Sunday, March 15.

I am reprinting the following poem written by Pastor Bob Vander Schaaf (with his permission). This was originally in the form of a book mark or to be hung in a tractor cab.

Tractor Cab Prayer

We work the soil, O God and prepare it for the seed.

But there are things remaining for which we stand in need.

A warming sun, a timely rain; each must be ours or all's in vain.

From mortals such as us these blessings cannot spring.

And so to you, our Father this humble prayer we bring;

Send us what we need from garners up above so we can plant and harvest,

And do it all with love.

Keep us safe today until our work is done.

And bless the home we go to ere come the setting sun.

- Bob Vander Schaaf

Palm Branch / Passion / Palm Sunday

In ancient times, the palm tree was associated with life and blessings. Found in desert oases, it was referred to as the tree of life. The branch was used as a victory symbol at public games and in battles.

In the Old Testament, palm fronds were carried in the Festival of Booths (Leviticus 23:40) as well as used as a motif in the design of the temple (1 Kings 6:29-35).

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people waved palms in triumphant rejoicing, laying them on the road before their King.

Palms appeared in the funeral art of the catacombs, symbolizing Christ's triumph over sin and death. This image depicts joy and the sorrow of the moment—the paradox of Christ's victory of life through humility and death.



And ...Don't Forget Holy Week



When March is over, you will turn your calendar over and realize you are right in the middle of Holy Week!

Our Maundy Thursday communion service will be held on April 2 at 7 p.m.

You are invited to attend Good Friday services at the Christian Reformed Church or Calvary. Times will be printed in the bulletin prior to Good Friday.

We celebrate Easter Sunday (April 5) beginning with a Sunrise service at 8 p.m. led by the middle and high school students followed by a breakfast prepared by the Worship Team.

The Easter Sunday service will begin at 9:30 a.m. The Bell Choir will be playing. Come and join us as we celebrate our risen Lord!

*Up from the grave, He arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes!...
Hallelujah! Christ arose!*