



## Blessed is the Nation

Written by Dorothy Streeter, July 2024

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord  
The people who put their trust in God alone,  
Their faith is secure, and their hope is sure.

We were once a country divinely blessed,  
Did we not have His favor and gifts untold?  
But we seem to have forgotten those days  
How we were welcomed into God's fold?

Is our dear, beloved country now off track?  
Oh, is our America stumbling and lost?  
Have we forgotten the right way to travel?  
Surely, we need to reconsider and count the cost.

Do we need to return to our founding roots?  
To the solid footings that were intended?  
To state our faith and hope very firmly  
Hopefully, our differences can then be mended!

As long as Israel chose to follow God's way,  
As long as He was their sure, shining light,  
They received all His blessings and tender care,  
And his chosen people were his delight.

Do you see how we actually compare  
With this ancient land, still existing today?  
We have received the same blessings and concerns  
And the same warning—to follow God Way!

So, as we travel, like faithful pilgrims  
He constantly reminds us "Watch and pray!"  
If you would reach the lovely, peaceful shore  
Then you must traverse the narrow way.

With immovable belief and faith that's firm,  
In your ever-present, all loving King.  
Trust He will be with you and sustain you,  
Salvation, hope and joy, He'll surely bring!

First Reformed Church, Volga, SD

July 2026

# Glad Tidings

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

## You Are Free to Worship in July

- **July 5** —To begin the service, the praise team will lead the congregation in singing some praise songs.
- **July 12**— The mixed quartet will lead the congregation in singing some well-known hymns. A group will be going to Dakota Sun at 11 a.m. to provide a short service and fellowship with the residents.
- **July 19**—The men's group will be leading us in singing some hymns to begin the service. Roni Lovette, a friend of Harold and Betty, will provide praise ministry. Pastor Fred Wilgenburg, pastor and chaplain at New Roots Ministry in Sioux Falls will be leading us in worship.
- **July 26**—As we begin the morning worship service, the praise band will lead the congregation in praise songs. Lee Vanderaa will be bringing a message from God's Holy Word. Lee taught Bible courses at Southwest MN Christian Schools and was a former Cossack!





Your ongoing prayers for those in need of healing and those taking treatments would be appreciated: George Cotton, Whitney Goetsch, Lois Kleinjan, Jodi Koerner, Bernita Kooima, Dawn Lucas, Tammy Mullett, Joel Schonewill, Harold Van Hoepen, Gina Vander Wal and Amy Vandermeer

Julie Jefferis had a pacemaker installed and is doing well.

**Upcoming Ministry Meetings**

- July 14—Buildings and Ground Team
- July 20—Consistory

**Our Sympathy to:**



- The family of Lee Vande Weerd: Justin, Michelle, Jase, Claire and Tate; James, Missy, Ashlyn, Jaxon and Everlee; Sandy Probst, John and Linda, Rich and Julie along with nieces and nephews on the passing of Lee on June 4.
- The family of Bill Van Beek: his wife Sheryl, daughter Michele Strande and family, Kelly Van Beek and family, sister Jan Clapp as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A celebration of life was held for Bill on June 19.  
May the God of all comfort be near to you in the loss of your family members.

**Congratulations to:**



Tom and Brook Cotton on the birth of their daughter, Everleigh Rose on June 19. Congrats also to Grandpa John Cotton, Grandmother Penny Cotton and Great Grandmother Carolyn Cotton.

Lawrence and Sally are pleased to announce the birth of their 7th great grandchild, Kellen Jackson Vander Wal. On June 11, Kellen was welcomed by his parents, Ethan and Callie and 3-year-old brother, Cohen. Kent and Shawn are the grandparents.

**Looking Back Ten Years..... July 2016!**

- A group from FRC went to worship at the Living Stone Church in Springfield with those inside the Durfee Prison.
- Carol Kleinjan led the Gifts for the Children program entitled “SONshine—Let’s Go to the Beach”. Fourteen children were enrolled by their grandmothers and great grandmothers: Samuel Leigh Kleinjan, Nora Bea Vanderbush, Evelyn Grace Knutson, Amelia Maye Scherff, Marin Jean Volkers, Carson Allen Kueter, Blaike Leigh Jaye Volkers, Lucille Claire Kleinjan, Remington Michael Pohlen, Evan James Sapp, Avery Kay Miller, Ashlyn Jessica Vande Weerd, Claire Leigh Vande Weerd and Tyden Darwin Moldenhauer.

**Highlights of Last Month (June 2026)**

- The MESA Team organized a float for Volga Old Timer’s Day parade. The pie booth was a success raising around \$1400 for Margo’s Place in Brookings.
- The Volga Ministerial Association hosted an evening of music and praise on Sunday evening, June 13. Many area residents filled the sanctuary listening to great hymns and songs of praise.
- We celebrated the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper on June 14 and the following Sunday we witnessed the sacrament of baptism of Lenna Joy, daughter of Jakob and Sam Weinberg.

**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 **June 23** Dori has tabulated **\$79,257.84** in total receipts.

A REMINDER: Please bring in your gas receipts also.

Keep eating, stay healthy and make every bite count.



**New Address:** Lawrence and Sally Vander Wal, 20761 464th Avenue, Bruce 57220

## Greetings from Raj

(Raj is one of our Compassion children living in Bangladesh)  
Raj is five years old.

Dear Sponsor,

Take love and greetings from Raj. He is doing well. He hopes you and your family are doing well, too. He is happy to receive your gift money. He thanked you for your gift. He lives with his grandma. His grandma takes care of him. He requested you pray for his grandma.

May God bless you,

Yours, Raj (writer tutor)

Raj had some questions to answer and they are as follows:

1. Some of my friends are: Julius, Anik, Purnima, Sourov, Asim
2. My best friend is special because he plays games with all.
3. I met my best friend at project.
4. Activities I do with my friends are drawing.
5. I spend 6.3 hours at project with my friends.

*I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders.*

Psalm 9:1

Gratitude may be the most highly underestimated virtue. We think of love, hope, faith, and the power of prayer and forgiveness.

But how often do we stop each day and give thanks for ALL the blessings in our lives?

Are we too focused on what we lack, what we don't have, don't want, don't need?

By opening the heart and mind to focus on gratitude, we unleash a treasure of unceasing good that's just waiting to overflow into our lives.

A grateful person knows that by giving thanks, they're given even more to be thankful for.

## FRC's Float Entry in the Volga Old Timer's Day Parade.



The MESA Team followed the Old Timer's Day Theme of the "Biggest Show in Town" by portraying Jesus walking on water.

