

August 30— It's the 5th Sunday so the Worship Team will begin the service by leading the congregation in singing some hymns.

Greetings from the Midwest Network

The Network staff and board are grateful for another year of serving alongside you in ministry. During the first half of 2026, we have focused on equipping and supporting our churches, pastors and leaders in a variety of ways.

This year, we hosted a Pastor's Retreat, launched our *Biblical Hermeneutics* course, completed our first Revitalization Book Club, produced a quarterly newsletter and began five-year covenant renewals with our member churches. We also continued the ongoing work of our Multiplication, Ordination, and Revitalization teams through regular meetings and collaboration. Finally, we supported our network pastor, Seth Sundstrom, for a well-deserved 12-week sabbatical this summer.

None of this ministry would be possible without the faithful partnership of our member churches, whose consistent practice of contributing 2% of their income enables the Network to serve and strengthen our churches.

-Brenda Van Beek, Clerk and Treasurer, Midwest Network

2026 Inspiration Hills Warrior Run

You are invited to be part of the 2026 Inspiration Hills Warrior run on Saturday, September 12.

The Warrior Run is more than just a race—it's a fun community event that helps provide camp scholarships, making it possible for more children and families to experience the life-changing ministry of Inspiration Hills.

This is a great opportunity to build community, enjoy a morning outdoors and support an incredible cause together.

Check the bulletin board for more information and details.

Exercise daily—walk with the Lord!!

First Reformed Church, Volga, SD

August 2026

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 five Sundays to worship together this month!

- **August 2** —To begin the service, a praise team will lead the congregation in singing some praise songs. Pastor Gary will be speaking on the theme of the recent Rocky Mountain High experience.
- **August 9**— The mixed quartet will lead the congregation in singing some well-known hymns. We will celebrate the Lord’s Supper together. A group will be going to Dakota Sun at 11 a.m. to provide a short service and fellowship with the residents.
- **August 16**—The men’s group will be leading us in singing some hymns to begin the service.
- **August 23**—OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE at the Doc and Roma Peeke 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.





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, and Gina Vander Wal

* Darcy Kasdorf had a procedure to address the concern in the vein in her leg.

Upcoming Ministry Meetings

- August 10—Consistory
- August 11—MESA Team
- August 12—Worship Team

Back to School Prayers with Scripture

Use these key scriptures to cover your children’s new academic year, designed to build courage, provide wisdom, and ease anxiety:

- ✓ Courage—Joshua 1:9 (God is with them wherever they go).
- ✓ Wisdom—James 1:5 (Asking God for wisdom).
- ✓ Anxiety—Philippians 4:6 (Praying about everything).
- ✓ Focus—Colossians 3:23 (Working with all their heart).



A practical tip is to write these verses on index cards to place in their backpacks or planners..

Prayers for Teacher:

- **For Strength and Patience:** Dear Lord, please give teachers extra energy, physical rest, and deep patience every single day.
- **For Creative Guidance:** God, fill teachers with fresh ideas to reach every student. Help them make their classroom peaceful and welcoming places to grow.
- **For Joy in Their Calling:** Lord, remind educators why they chose this important work. Let them see the good fruit of their labor and feel appreciated by their school communities.

Looking Back Ten Years..... August 2016!

- A group of ladies enjoyed an evening at Kay Christianson’s home on Lake Hendricks.
- The out door worship service was held in the northeast corner of the church parking lot on August 14 followed by a potluck meal

Highlights of Last Month (July 2026)

- FRC celebrated America’s 250th anniversary with patriotic music and a message from Pastor Gary on our rights and responsibilities as citizens. The evening concluded with fireworks in the church parking lot courtesy of Pastor Gary and Robyn (and their daughter and family!)
- Pastor Gary and Robyn attended a Pastor’s Conference at the Billy Graham Retreat Center.
- A group of nine left for Rocky Mountain High on July 15.

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 **July 21**, Dori has tabulated **\$84,444.03** in total receipts.

This is a gain of \$5,186.19 in a month!

A REMINDER: Please bring in your gas receipts also.

Keep eating, stay healthy and make every bite count.



Thank God For Little Things

Thank you, God, for little things that often come our way -
The things we take for granted but don’t mention when we pray -
The unexpected courtesy, the thoughtful, kindly deed -
A hand reached out to help us in the time of sudden need -
Oh, make us more aware, dear God, of little daily graces
That come to us with “sweet surprise” from never-dreamed-of places.

(Source: In the Vineyard of the Lord, Lights and Shadows from the Life of Helen Steiner Rice)

Greetings from Raj

(Raj is one of our Compassion children living in Bangladesh)
Raj is five years old. The letter is written by a correspondent by the Tutor

Dear Sponsor Friends,
Raj sends you his sincere love and greetings. He and his family are doing well, and he hopes that you are also having a good time with your family. He wants to let you know that he regularly attends the project and has made many friends there. There is no wall around their project, and he especially asks you to pray that they may be able to build one. He and his family pray for you, and he asks that you pray for him as well,
May God bless you.

Some questions that Raj answered on a prepared form:

- 1. My holiday/school break is in the month of JUNE.
- 2. My holiday/school break lasts for TWO DAYS (FRIDAY AND SATURDAY).
- 3. During my holiday/school break I often go to FIELD AND SCHOOL NEAR HOME.
- 4. My favorite thing to do during my holiday/school break is PLAYING FOOTBALL.
- 5. My favorite food to eat during my holiday/school break is RICE, MEAT AND BIRYANI. (Google ‘says’ that biryani is a flavorful mixed rice dish made with spices, and meat (chicken, goat, beef, seafood or vegetables) often cooked in layers in a sealed pot (dum) to infuse flavors.
- 6. My favorite person to spend time with during my holiday/school break is JULIAS.
- 7. One thing I would like to do during a holiday/school break in the future is TO GO TO SUNDARBAN. (a forest)
- 8. One person I would like to visit during a holiday/school break in the future is MESSI.

Budgets for the 2027 Church Year

TEAM CHAIRS—please be thinking about a date for a meeting to prepare a budget for the 2027 church year. It would be helpful if your team could meet between September 14 and October 9. Your proposed budget work sheets will be in your team mailboxes **AFTER** September 11 and should be returned to Susan by October 12. The consistory will begin looking at them at the October meeting.
Congregational meeting is TENTATIVELY scheduled for December 6.

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 19 beginning at 7 p.m.

The Junior High Youth Group (6th-9th grade) will begin their fall season with a kick-off meeting on Wednesday, August 26 at 7 p.m.

Sunday School Begins in September

A Sunday School Kick-off will be held on Sunday, September 13. The classes will meet for lessons beginning on September 20.
Be watching for more details on these upcoming events.

Do you believe in the power of prayer? Do you care about your community and our friends and neighbors?

Our MESA Team is inviting you to be a part of this fun and exciting outreach to our community. On August 22, we will venture out into our community and meet people right where they live. We'll knock on doors, pray with and for individuals, and let them experience the love of Christ firsthand. We'll also tell them a little about our church if they're interested.
This has been a great experience for those who have gone in the past. We'd like you to join us and be a part of changing lives and changing situations through our prayers. We will have a short training session on August 16 for anyone who hasn't been involved or those that want a refresher course. Mark these dates on your calendar. Let's see what God can do through our prayers right here in Volga! - Pastor Gary