

### Center of Hope Fall Benefit

You are invited to the 24th Annual Fall Benefit for Hope Haven on Saturday, November 7 at Celebrate Church in Sioux Falls from 4:30-7 p.m. The church is located on 1000 S. Sycamore Avenue.

This is a special evening of worship, a delicious meal, guest testimonies, ministry updates, a silent auction, fun activities and much more.

They have a goal to raise \$30,000.

More information is posted on the bulletin board.

### Option One Fundraising Dinner

You are invited to the 14th Annual Lifekeeper Fundraising Dinner at the Dakotah Bank Center in Brookings in Thursday, September 17. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. with the meal being served at 6:30 p.m.

Information on how to register is posted on the bulletin board.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Marc Newman, a communication trainer, incisive pro-life apologist and author.

### Key Scripture and Themes for Harvest Prayer

- ✓ **Gratitude for Provision:** Acknowledge God as the creator and sustainer of the earth.  
Psalm 65:9—*You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.*
- ✓ **Protection and Safety:** Pray for good health and accident-free long hours for farm workers and heavy machinery on roads.
- ✓ **Perseverance:** Find strength during difficult growing seasons or waiting periods. Galatians 6:9—*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

**First Reformed Church, Volga, SD**

**September 2026**

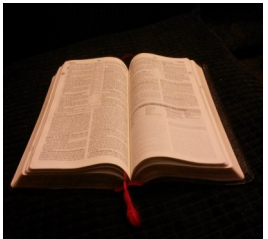
## Glad Tidings

*“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 September!

- **September 6**—To begin the service, a praise team will lead the congregation in singing some praise songs.
- **September 13**— The mixed quartet will lead the congregation in singing some well-known hymns. **THIS IS SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF DAY!** The third graders will receive a Bible during the morning worship service. Come and see what fun things the Education Team will provide at 11 a.m. outside! A group will be going to Dakota Sun at 11 a.m. to provide a short service and fellowship with the residents.
- **September 20**—The men’s group will be leading us in singing some hymns to begin the service. The Tri-Valley Barbershop Chorus will be in concert at FRC at 4 p.m. (Daniel Ostrem’s father is a member of the chorus). More details will be coming.
- **September 27**—The praise band will begin the service in singing some praise songs. We will celebrate communion as Pastor Gary and Robyn will be gone the first two Sundays in October.





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

- John Cotton had successful surgery and pathology reports came back good!
- Kelly Vander Wal had a heart ablation to correct arrhythmia in his heart

**Congratulations to:**



Sterling and Chloe Johnson on the birth of their son, Walker Sterling on August 18. He joins a sister, Wrenley. Grandparents are Al and Amy Vande Weerd and great grandparents are John and Linda Vande Weerd. There is no greater blessing than a new baby. God is trusting you with a precious gift and He will guide you on this wonderful journey.

**Upcoming Ministry Meetings**

- September 3 —Education Team
- September 14—Consistory
- September 27—Buildings and Grounds Team
- September 29 —Worship Team

**Service Project for September and October**

Boxes will be set up in the fellowship hall as well as the coat room along the south hallway for you to place your warm winter clothing (IN GOOD CLEAN CONDITION). These will be given to the Center of Hope in Sioux Falls. There is a special need for men’s and children’s coats/snowpants (all sizes) gloves/mittens, hats, and winter boots. However, they will take all winter gear items.

The boxes will be set up until the end of October.

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

- The theme for the Sunday School Kickoff was flying and how that connects to faith in the Lord. The service ended in the fellowship hall for a time of making paper airplanes including some contests. Afterwards, a hotdog meal was served in the fellowship hall.
- We had the privilege of hearing from our missionaries, Albino and Sandy Rodriguez who work with young people in Peru.
- Family Night began on September 13 with a meal and then breaking into small groups for discussion.

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

- We observed the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper on August 9
- Some youth and sponsors that attended Rocky Mountain High gave a report and showed a video on the activities and what they learned at Rocky Mountain High
- The MESA Team organized a Prayer Walk on August 22. Several homes on the east side of Volga were contacted and many prayers were offered for those living in those homes as well as prayers offered for the community and world.
- About 120 people enjoyed the outdoor worship service in the park as well as the delicious meal. It was a beautiful day worshipping in God’s big outdoors (with a few cute squirrels in attendance!).

**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 **August 24**, Dori has tabulated **\$84,444.03** in total receipts.

This is a gain of \$13,622.82 in a month!  
A REMINDER: Please bring in your gas receipts also.  
Keep eating, stay healthy and make every bite count.



**Thank You Notes Received from:**

Dear First Congregation, Your faithful and generous support of God’s work and our family is incredible. We are forever grateful for your partnership and encouragement. May God richly bless you, Albino and Sandy Rodriguez

† † †

Thank you for your support of Living Stone Prison Church and Freedoms Gate Church! Your support makes a huge difference in the lives of many people! The following was written by one of the inmates:  
Dear Outside Members:... I would like to say thank you for all the donations that you guys give to us. Most of all I want to thank you for all of the prayers that you guys pray for us. Because without any of that, especially the prayers, we would not be able to enjoy a lot of what we do now. Our ministry is growing and has grown a lot. We have a safe place to come before the LORD and get away from all the chaos of prison. And MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL!! And we will be praying for you all!

Check out the beautiful handwriting of this person and the person that drew the front cover! It is posted on the bulletin board! God has blessed these persons with exceptional talent!

**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 scheduled for December 6 immediately following the morning service.

**Sunday School Begins in September**

The third grade Sunday School class will be receiving a Bible during the morning worship service.  
The Education Team has some fun things planned that will take place outside. You will have the opportunity to make a ‘human sundae’!

Grades pre-school through 5th grade will meet for music at 11 a.m. in the big classroom on north hallway. Paisley Raml will be in charge of music. Robyn Mulder has volunteered to lead the youth bell choir. Lesson time for them will be from 11:15-11:45 a.m. Middle School, High School and the Adult class will meet for a lesson and discussion from 11 –11:45 a.m.



- Sunday School Superintendent—Nicole Vande Weerd
- Asst. SS Superintendent—
- Music: Paisley Raml, Michelle Vander Wal and Robyn Mulder
- Roving Subs: Dar Ludwig and Robyn Mulder
- Preschool—Paisley Raml (this is a combined class of PK-1st grade)
- K-1st Grade—Michelle Vander Wal (combine with PK)
- 2nd-3rd Grade—Laci Volkers and Lindsey Vander Wal (sub-Susan Vander Wal)
- 4th-5th Grade—Michelle Vande Weerd and Nicole Vande Weerd
- Middle School—Daniel and Heidi Ostrem
- High School—Caleb Schaefer and John Sapp (Nick Vande Weerd is the roving sub for the above three classes)
- Adult Class—Pastor Gary (sub—Ron Koerner)

