

September-October 2026

the MESSENGER

406 S. HIGH STREET—53956

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Since its founding over 100 years ago, Randolph First Reformed Church has been part of the Wisconsin Classis, a regional body of the Reformed Church in America (RCA). The main duties of a classis are to provide oversight and support for churches, to plant new ministries, to facilitate communication between churches and to guide the training of new ministers. By design, these classis duties are not done by paid staff working “top-down”, but rather classis responsibilities have always been primarily performed by the elders and pastors of churches within their classis.

That, of course, means that the number of churches and ministers within a classis is always key to a classis’ ability to fulfill its responsibilities, and while it’s never been the largest of RCA classes, the Wisconsin Classis has usually rested on a strong foundation of more than 20 established churches, along with specialized ministers serving in many other areas, like chaplaincy. Sadly, over the past 25 years, Wisconsin Classis, like many church organizations, has dwindled – currently to 7 churches. This is the result of church closures and departures to other denominations due to several factors: General national declines in church membership/attendance, breakdowns in connection and communication between churches, and persistent controversies in the broader RCA over issues like marriage or infant baptism, even though the RCA has not changed its official positions. Given these realities, at its Fall Meeting on October 13, Wisconsin Classis is very likely to start the process of dissolving, and the remaining churches are beginning to determine new organizational bodies to belong to. Some churches are choosing to remain within the RCA by transferring to new, restructured classes now called “Middle Assemblies”. Other churches are transferring to new denominations.

Last summer, as part of our own church’s discernment process, the Consistory passed out reports of our denominational options to the 51 members of our “Great Consistory” (all past/present elders and deacons), encouraging them to discuss the report with other members of the congregation. The feedback Consistory received showed strongest support for Randolph First Reformed transferring to the Alliance of Reformed Churches (ARC), and information about the ARC was handed out at the 2025 Congregational Meeting. After following the situation of Wisconsin Classis for another year, the Consistory this August moved to initiate the transfer process to ARC by a unanimous vote. This kicks off a period for the congregation to receive information and have questions answered before a full Congregational Meeting vote, which must approve the transfer by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority. The Consistory is planning both an informational forum and, later, the Special Congregational Meeting in October-November. If you have any questions in the meantime, please get ahold of me or an elder. Also, special thanks to our Denominational Discernment Team (Jeff VanderVelde, Mary Paul & Dennis VanderWerff) for their extra attention and prayers in this process.

God’s Kingdom come, Pastor Luke



**Youth Group
Labor Day Pie Stand
Mon. September 7
11-2pm**

Come join us for one of
our biggest fundraisers.
We appreciate your
support!



OCTOBER IS
**DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH**



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

- 3 Lukas Alvin
Diane Hicks
- 4 Nick Leystra
- 6 Dave Missall
- 10 Aaron Retzlaff
Brian Anderson
- 11 Jeff Hookstead
Randy Paul
- 12 Jana Roberts
Margaret VerHage
Gerry Deakin
- 13 Tessa Reed
- 14 John L. VerHage
- 17 Brittany Omen
Pam Alderden
- 20 Jaime Kok
- 25 Violet Saeman
- 26 Vincent Wilcox
- 27 Derick Alsum
- 28 Patti Stowell
Chelsey Omen
Paige Meyer
- 30 Gordon Vander Velde
Kaylee VanBuren

Happy Anniversary

- 3 Duane & Debbie Wells Beekman
- 12 Nick & Aubrynn Leystra
- 14 Dave & Darlene Missall
- 16 Darren & Jerilyn Alsum
- 19 Allen & Karen Van Herwaarden
- 20 Gene & Linda Wiersma
- 21 David & Michelle Retzlaff
Jared & Jessica Spors
- 22 Scott & Amy Reed
Barry & Niki VanBeek
- 26 Denis & Diane Homan (45th)
- 27 Dennis & Susan Vander Werff



If your birthday or anniversary is missing or wrong, please contact Jana at 210-2784 or 1strandolphoffice@gmail.com

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

- 6 John VerHage
Marlene DeYoung
Kiana Tietz
Lois Wendlandt
- 7 Abigail Stiemsma
- 11 Corrina Leystra
Ryan Alvin
- 12 Cindy VanBeek
- 13 Don Cupery
Amy Vredeveld
- 16 Janice Syens
- 17 Ember Leystra
- 18 Rylea Alvin
- 19 Julie Nieman
- 20 Micah Vander Velde
Elaine Waterworth
- 23 Jacob Anderson
- 24 Karen Meekma
- 25 Devon DeYoung
- 26 Nadia Dybvik
Linda Moore
- 28 Sam Wilcox
- 30 Vicki Minnig

Happy Anniversary

- 3 Bob & June Tillema (45th)
- 5 Jerry & Mary Ann Westra
Ken & Judie Ireland
- 7 Matt & Paula Van Buren (20th)
- 11 Don & Jackie Cupery
- 19 Todd and Sarah Leystra (35th)
Bruce & Amy Vredeveld
- 21 Jeff & Jodi Vander Velde
Reuben & Jane Horton
- 23 Justin & Kim Parks
- 25 Jason & Tanya Stiemsma
- 26 Tom & Tammie Tietz (30th)



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August Consistory Minutes

August 10, 2026 - 7:00pm

Present: Pastor Luke, John VerHage, Randy Paul, Deb Cupery, Ken Ireland, Hugh Roberts, Mike Grieger, Aaron Retzlaff, Kyle Roberts, Darren Alsum, & Nick Leystra

DEVOTION & OPENING PRAYER – Mike Grieger

CHURCH OFFICER REPORTS

Pastor's Report – Pastor Luke

-The summer has been busy, especially with some longer-term projects like getting The Gathering Place schedule established, refining the Benevolence request process, new plans for youth groups, and working with the Denominational Discernment Team.

-Randolph Youth Football began in August and will run to the end of September. Pastor Luke will be out of the office by 3:30 on Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays for practice.

Elders Report – Randy Paul

-Reviewed Care Lists

-Discussed necessary areas for improved communication

-Pulpit Supply: Sep.13-Chaplain Lois Wendlandt; Oct.25-Diego Chavarria

Deacons Report – Darren Alsum

TEAM REPORTS

Finance Report – Kyle Roberts

-General Fund: \$140,608.98 -Benevolent Fund: \$30,560.78 -Gathering Place: \$28,118.31

-Building Fund: \$193,341.81 -MSC to approve the Finance Report

-So far, Gathering Place expenses range \$250-400/mo. Expectations are that a new internet configuration will lower costs but that cooler weather will mean higher heat bills.

-The Deacon Board considered a proposal to lower rental costs for The Gathering Place, but in consultation with Deb, will hold off any changes until the end of the year.

-The latest \$150,000 gift from the VanderMeer family has been put in a short-term CD. The funds were given for the parking lot and other projects. Precise allocations will be made when the CD matures on Jan.26, 2027

-Thank You Gift to Richard VanderMeer: Consistory will purchase an Aura digital frame, which can be updated with Gathering Place pictures

Education Report – Deb Cupery

-Superintendent Stacy Saeman led an Education Team meeting on Aug.5

-Fall Sunday School will begin on Sep.20. There will not be a Kickoff event

-A new K-2nd Sunday School teacher is still needed. All other teachers are returning

-Seeking a few more opportunities for the Elementary Singers to sing during worship

-Teachers Meeting will be on Aug.30, including a review of Safe Church Policy

-Jill Baneck is leading the Labor Day pie stand as a youth group fundraiser

-The first ROOTS (young families group) brought nine families together at its first cookout event. They would like to host quarterly events for parents & families

-Discussed growing need for more Nursery volunteers

Mission Report – Aaron Retzlaff

-With an addition \$750 received in offering, the Deacon Board approved the purchase of three sewing machines (\$1125) for Haiti Empowered's vo-tech school

June 2025 Financial Report.....

General Fund:

Offerings	\$16,546.00
Disbursements	\$16,131.45

Benevolent Fund:

General Offering	\$ 2320.00
Special Offering	\$ 280.00

-Disbursements

Fisher of Men	\$ 200.00
Autumn Rain-Pollasch	\$ 250.00
Emily Dykstra	\$ 325.00
PIM Shares	\$ 280.00

Building Fund:

Offerings	\$ 1213.70
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August Consistory Continued.....

Property Report – Nick Leystra/Mike Grieger

- Planning to reach out to Jung's & Randolph Health Services about potential contributions to a parking lot replacement project
- Discussion was held on potentially reducing the size of the parking lot
- a&b Fitness has donated three TVs as displays for The Gathering Place
- Denis Homan is building nine acoustical panels to reduce the echo in the high-ceiling space in The Gathering Place
- Mike has coordinated with Josh VanderGalien to set up an antennae system that can broadcast the church's internet to the parsonage and The Gathering Place. This will save the church the cost of two extra internet lines

Personnel Report – John Verhage

- The Elder Board has been in discussions about changes to the Youth Director position as the contract renewal date approaches on Sep.1. The Elder Board plans on finalizing the contract proposals shortly.

Music/Tech Report – Randy Paul

- Clarice Koopmans has informed Consistory that she considers herself retired as a regular worship musician. Clarice plans to help out in special circumstances as well as with the nursing home services. Consistory will do something to recognize Clarice in the fall
- Randy asked if a special acknowledgment could be made for Jason Weaver with a small gift for 9 years of volunteering on the sound board

NEW BUSINESS

- Reviewed the proposal brought by the Denominational Discernment Team for Randolph First Reformed to withdraw from the RCA and transfer to the Alliance of Reformed Churches (ARC). Consistory reviewed the ARC's "Unifying Beliefs" and unanimously approved the proposal. A transfer requires congregational approval, so Consistory plans to set up an informational forum and a special congregational meeting in late September.

MSC to adjourn. Closing prayer offered by Pastor Luke

Thank You

Dear First Reformed Church, Thank you so much for the generous financial gift you recently provided to our family. We plan to use it to rebuild our home. Going through this whole experience has been truly humbling. Your church has always been so supportive towards us—through all of Judson's health issues and now our house fire; First Reformed has carried us through with prayers, meals and monetary gifts. Psalm 46:1-2 reminds us "God is our safe place and our power. He helps us right away when we face trouble." We fully believe and can feel this verse come to life in our lives right now! Again, thank you for your continuous prayers, love and support. We are so grateful for you!

-Much Love Lee & Amber Redeker Family

Thank you for your prayers for my cousin's son Daniel Mongillo. He was hit with a devastating diagnosis in February of advanced kidney disease and started dialysis immediately. It can take years to find a matching living donor but recently Daniel received not one but two donor matches. Praise God for answering prayers that will help to save his life. He is just 33 years old. Medical teams are deciding his best match and moving forward to set a kidney transplant date.

-Wendy Holwerda

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and calls during my recent health issues. Though the waiting was difficult having that support and concern from our church family really helped us get through that difficult time and finding out it was not cancer we truly believe was an answer to prayers. God is good.

-Al VanHerwaarden



Serving the Congregation

Date	Nursery	Kids Church
Sept. 6	Jamie Weaver	
Sept. 13	Annika Reed	
Sept. 20	Kayla Prager	Amy & Vince Reed Harold Baneck
Sept 27	Amy Vredevelde	Holly & Saige Pfeffer Annika Reed
Oct. 4	Deb Wells	Niki & Liana VanBeek Frederick Baneck
Oct. 11	Sarah Leystra	Niki & Liana VanBeek Annika Reed
Oct 18	Abigail Stiemsma	Tessa & Annika Reed Lydia VanBuren
Oct 25	Deb Cupery	Amy, Tessa & Vince Reed

Youth Group Schedule

Cornerstone 5:30pm

Date	Activity
Sept. 16	Kick Off Night
Sept. 23	7:25am See You at the Pole Food Scavenger Hunt
Sept. 30	No Youth Group—Homecoming
Oct. 7	Minute to Win It Game Night
Oct 14	Service Project
Oct 21	Group Night
Oct 28	Bricks, Cake & Buckets Triathlon

RCYF 7:00pm

Date	Activity
Sept. 2	Kick Off Day
Sept. 9	Group Night
Sept. 16	Group Night
Sept. 23	7:25am See You at the Pole Food Scavenger Hunt
Sept. 30	No Youth Group Homecoming
Oct. 7	Board Game Night
Oct. 14	Fun Night@ Fox Lake Golf
Oct. 21	Group Night
Oct. 28	Bricks, Cake & Buckets Triathlon



Above: visiting Gooseberry Falls State Park near Duluth

Making Multiethnic Multiplying Disciples in Milwaukee

Summer Cru

fostering community

Every summer we commission student leaders that are staying in the Milwaukee area to lead a summer Bible study. This summer UWM and Marquette joined forces to foster a very fruitful community. This is what a student leader said about how summer Cru is going: "Summer Cru has been very special! We have been going through Galatians and there's been about 20-25 people there every week between UWM and Marquette. Conversations during Bible studies have been very uplifting and we've had about half a dozen students who are new to CRU entirely join us and a handful of them want to check out CRU during the school year!" This summer group has been just further proof of this generation's hunger for depth and community! I can't wait to get back to campus to see what God will do this school year!

a journey north

I had a span of travel in July to celebrate new seasons! I spent a few days at a cabin between Bayfield and Hayward, Wisconsin with some staff friends and send off my friend Ally who is moving to Thailand with Cru. Then traveled to Duluth, Minnesota to stand up in my close college friend, Karl's wedding! It was such a joyful time of reconnection and exploring the area.

Ways to Pray:

- Praise God for students across the Metro gathering to study the Bible this summer!
- Praise God for a meaningful trip to Northern Wisconsin and Duluth!
- Praise God for his provision this summer! I am just a few hundred dollars a month shy of my summer goal! Pray as I continue to invite new people to join our community of partners.
- Pray for me as I set healthy rhythms with the Lord and prepare for the school year.



Because of your prayers and support, the Lord is gathering students in Christ-centered community! Thank you! Let me know how I can be praying for you this month.

For the Kingdom,

Emily

1. Students gathering for Summer Cru 2. Morning coffee with the bride! 3. Close college friends at the wedding - Tim and Karissa with their sons, and Mallory and Geoffrey who are on staff with Cru in Peru!

2125 N 52ND ST MILWAUKEE, WI 53208 | 920.382.7566 | EMILY.DYKSTRA@CRU.ORG



God's Surprises

Tom & Colleen Fraser/Campus Ministry

August 7, 2026

Dear First Reformed Church,

Changes can be challenging. In our last letter we mentioned Jena and her team needing a reassignment for the summer because of the Ebola outbreak near Rwanda, where they were assigned. **This was an unwelcome surprise to the team** who had all the funds for the trip and their flights to Rwanda purchased.

As Jena called to ask Colleen to pray for her, Acts 16:6-10 came to mind. This is where Paul, Silas and Timothy are forbidden by the Holy Spirit to go to Asia and then Bithynia. How or why is not revealed. God sends a vision in the night to Paul; it was a man from Macedonia standing there urging Paul, saying, **"Come over to Macedonia and help us."** They went to Macedonia immediately to preach the gospel to the Macedonians.

Paul met Lydia there. She became a key contact and an important fellow servant in Philippi. How good that Paul listened to the Spirit and obeyed.

Jena led her team to pivot as she followed the Lord. Here is what they wrote in their prayer letter:

"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails (Prov19:21)." ... It was determined (only one week before departure) with Cru's crisis management team that rerouting would be necessary. Though we were heartbroken, having poured months into the development of a summer mission and partnership in Kigali, Rwanda, Jena quickly pivoted to inquire whether the Dominican Republic would be willing to host us... What followed was a marvelous demonstration of God's power and sovereignty!

Within two days, flights, housing, transportation and ministry assignments were set up for our team -- nothing short of incredible, as those logistics take months to prepare!

*In the DR, the team was able to distribute water filters to areas without clean water access... Sixty homes received lifesaving clean water and heard the life changing message of the gospel. We also were able to go to two local universities to meet students and share the gospel... Every student ... was hungry to know God. Between the water filter distribution and campus evangelism, **the gospel was shared 167 times, and 57 people placed their faith in Christ!***

Pictured to the right is the team that God surprised with the privilege of going to the Dominican Republic. Jena is in the front, second from the left.



Thank You, Lord, for Your Surprises!
Tom & Colleen



"...having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia... they attempted to go to Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them."

Acts 16:6-7

Prayer Requests

1. This is only one story of the many God wrote this summer. Praise Him that He continues to seek after the lost.
2. Thank you for prayers for our sabbatical. We have 26 days left. We are resting in the Lord and reading as we declutter.
3. Continue to pray that new missionaries will trust the Lord to provide for their needs and be able to report to their assignments.
4. Continue to pray for protection over us and our sons and their families.

📍 1121 Paoli Pike
West Chester, Pa 19380

✉️ tom.fraser@cru.org
colleen.fraser@cru.org

☎️ Tom 484-356-6447
Colleen 484-947-7971

A Call to Prayer—Persecution Watch

Leah Sharibu & Nigeria's Missing Girls One name can represent thousands torn apart by violence and injustice. Yet every single name matters to God, and every faithful prayer carries weight.

Leah Sharibu On February 19, 2018, ISWAP abducted 110 schoolgirls in Dapchi, Nigeria. Most were released, but 14 year old Leah Sharibu was kept in captivity because she refused to renounce her Christian faith. For more than eight years, her family has endured the pain of separation. Recent reports indicate Leah has been forced into three marriages and has four children born in captivity. Though she faces unspeakable hardship, God remains present with her.



The Missing Girls Leah's story reflects the suffering of countless unnamed women and girls across conflict affected regions of Nigeria. Many face abduction, rape, forced marriage, and violence. Some remain missing; others return carrying deep physical and emotional wounds. "Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them... and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." — Hebrews 13:3 "He remembers his covenant forever..." — Psalm 105:8

Pray For the safe return of Leah Sharibu and all Christian women and girls held by extremist groups. • For God to intervene and bring captives safely home (Isaiah 61:1). • For strength, faith, and the experience of God's love during horrific trials. • For protection, healing, and full rehabilitation for all women in conflict zones. • That each one knows God sees them, hears their cries, and stays close in suffering. "Where can I flee from your presence?... even there your hand will guide me." — Psalm 139:7,10

Families Left Waiting Behind every missing girl is a suffering family carrying fear and uncertainty. We cling to Jesus' promise: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you." — John 14:27

Pray For comfort, strength, and sustaining faith for grieving families. • For safe reunions, deep healing, and full acceptance of returned captives.

Acceptance & Restoration Women who escape captivity often face rejection and shame.

Intercede • For communities to reject shame and embrace God's love and grace. • For protection, acceptance, and unity (Colossians 3:14).

Justice & Protection The plight of these missing girls demands prayer and action.

Pray • For the Nigerian government to act, secure Leah's freedom, and protect vulnerable minorities (Proverbs 31:8). • For justice for all abused and murdered captives (Amos 5:24). • For God to transform violent hearts, as He did Saul (Acts 9:5).

A Global Call to Stand Together The Global Church stands united in prayer and advocacy.

Cry Out • For God to break the fowler's snare, open locked doors, and bring Leah and her children out safely (Psalm 124:7). • For believers worldwide to stand in solidarity and work toward lasting change.

Prayer Father, break every chain of captivity. Set the prisoners free by Your mighty power. Lord, may we never forget those who suffer. Strengthen our resolve to pray faithfully, speak courageously, and act compassionately until freedom, justice, and restoration come. AMEN.

The Lord's servant, Nadia Dybvik

Persecution Watch Prayer Conference Call Leader

For more information about Persecution Watch, you may visit <https://voiceofthepersecuted.wordpress.com/> or contact Nadia Dybvik directly at nadiaitaly@myyahoo.com or call 608-658-0712.



Faith Over Fear

Topical Bible Study Plan

- ☐ Day 1: Joshua 1:9
- ☐ Day 2: Psalm 27:1
- ☐ Day 3: Isaiah 41:10
- ☐ Day 4: 2 Timothy 1:7
- ☐ Day 5: Philippians 4:6-7
- ☐ Day 6: Romans 8:31
- ☐ Day 7: Hebrews 11:1
- ☐ Day 8: Matthew 6:34
- ☐ Day 9: 1 Peter 5:7
- ☐ Day 10: Psalm 23:4
- ☐ Day 11: Proverbs 3:5-6
- ☐ Day 12: Isaiah 43:1
- ☐ Day 13: John 14:27
- ☐ Day 14: Psalm 56:3
- ☐ Day 15: Deuteronomy 31:6
- ☐ Day 16: 2 Corinthians 5:7
- ☐ Day 17: Psalm 34:4
- ☐ Day 18: Matthew 17:20
- ☐ Day 19: Isaiah 26:3
- ☐ Day 20: Mark 5:26
- ☐ Day 21: Ephesians 6:10-11
- ☐ Day 22: Psalm 91:1-2
- ☐ Day 23: Romans 10:17
- ☐ Day 24: John 16:33
- ☐ Day 25: Psalm 46:1-3
- ☐ Day 26: 1 James 1:6
- ☐ Day 27: Isaiah 12:2
- ☐ Day 28: 1 John 4:18
- ☐ Day 29: Luke 12:32
- ☐ Day 30: Colossians 3:15
- ☐ Day 31: Zephaniah 3:17

Kingdom Bloggers

Study and Reflection Questions

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to see with eyes of faith according to biblical principles? How is this contrasted with seeing through the lens of fear?
2. In the context of Scripture, how did various biblical figures demonstrate faith in challenging situations rather than succumbing to fear? Provide specific examples.
3. How does the concept of faith as described in Hebrews 11:1 inform our understanding of seeing with eyes of faith?
4. What role does trust in God's promises play in overcoming fear and embracing a faith-based perspective?
5. How does the account of Jesus calming the storm (Matthew 8:23-27) illustrate the importance of faith over fear?
6. In what ways does the Bible encourage believers to focus on God's power and sovereignty as a means of dispelling fear?
7. How can the narrative of David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17) serve as a model for seeing challenges through the eyes of faith?
8. What are the spiritual disciplines that can help strengthen one's ability to see with eyes of faith rather than fear?
9. How does the Apostle Paul's experience in Philippians 4:6-7 provide guidance on managing anxiety through faith?
10. What are the practical implications of Isaiah 41:10 for believers struggling with fear? How does this verse encourage faith?

Reflection Questions

1. Reflect on a time in your life when you faced a significant challenge. How did you respond initially, and what role did faith or fear play in your response?
2. In what specific areas of your life do you find it most difficult to see with eyes of faith? What steps can you take to shift your perspective?
3. Consider a situation where you successfully overcame fear by relying on your faith. What strategies or actions helped you during that time?
4. How do daily spiritual practices, such as prayer and meditation on Scripture, influence your ability to see with eyes of faith?
5. When confronted with uncertainty, how can you remind yourself of God's past faithfulness to bolster your faith?
6. What are some practical ways you can encourage others to adopt a faith-based perspective rather than one rooted in fear?
7. How does your community of faith support you in seeing with eyes of faith? Are there specific people or groups that inspire you?
8. Reflect on the role of gratitude in cultivating a faith-filled outlook. How can focusing on what you are thankful for diminish fear?
9. Consider the impact of external influences (e.g., media, social networks) on your perception of faith and fear. How can you manage these influences to maintain a faith-based perspective?
10. What Scriptures or biblical truths can you memorize and meditate on to reinforce your commitment to seeing with eyes of faith during challenging times?

October Bible Reading Plan



Don't Give the Enemy a Foothold

Topical Bible Study Plan

- ☐ Day 1: Ephesians 4:27
- ☐ Day 2: 1 Peter 5:8
- ☐ Day 3: James 4:7
- ☐ Day 4: 2 Corinthians 2:11
- ☐ Day 5: Ephesians 6:11
- ☐ Day 6: 1 John 3:8
- ☐ Day 7: Matthew 16:23
- ☐ Day 8: Romans 12:21
- ☐ Day 9: 2 Corinthians 11:14
- ☐ Day 10: Ephesians 6:16
- ☐ Day 11: Proverbs 4:23
- ☐ Day 12: John 10:10
- ☐ Day 13: Luke 22:31
- ☐ Day 14: Psalm 101:3
- ☐ Day 15: 1 Cor 10:1
- ☐ Day 16: Psalm 37:23-24
- ☐ Day 17: 2 Thess 3:3
- ☐ Day 18: Colossians 3:2
- ☐ Day 19: Galatians 5:19-21
- ☐ Day 20: Ephesians 5:11
- ☐ Day 21: Psalm 119:11
- ☐ Day 22: Matthew 26:41
- ☐ Day 23: Philippians 4:8
- ☐ Day 24: Proverbs 6:27-28
- ☐ Day 25: Romans 13:14
- ☐ Day 26: 2 Timothy 1:7
- ☐ Day 27: Psalm 59:1
- ☐ Day 28: 1 Thess 5:22
- ☐ Day 29: Psalm 26:2
- ☐ Day 30: Deuteronomy 6:14-15
- ☐ Day 31: Hebrews 12:1

Kingdom Bloggers

Study and Reflection Questions

Study Questions

1. What does Ephesians 4:27 mean by "do not give the devil a foothold"? How does this apply to personal behavior?
2. In 1 Peter 5:8, why is it important to be sober-minded and vigilant in the context of resisting the enemy?
3. What are some biblical examples where individuals gave the enemy a foothold, and what were the consequences?
4. How does James 4:7 provide a strategy for resisting the devil, and what does it mean to submit to God?
5. What practical advice does Paul give in 2 Corinthians 2:11 to prevent being outwitted by Satan?
6. In the context of Ephesians 6:11, what are the 'schemes of the devil' that Paul warns about?
7. How do the 'flaming arrows of the evil one' described in Ephesians 6:16 relate to the concept of not giving the enemy a foothold?
8. What role does forgiveness play in preventing the enemy from gaining a foothold in our lives, as suggested by Matthew 6:14-15?
9. How can failing to guard one's heart, as mentioned in Proverbs 4:23, give the enemy a foothold?
10. Examine the link between 'idle words' mentioned in Matthew 12:36 and giving the enemy a foothold. How do our words open or close doors for the enemy?

Reflection Questions

1. Reflect on a time when you might have unknowingly given the enemy a foothold in your life. What led to that, and how did you address it?
2. Consider the daily habits you have that could potentially open or close doors to negative influences. Are there any you need to change?
3. How does your prayer life help you guard against giving the enemy a foothold? Can you identify times when prayer changed a potentially harmful situation?
4. What role does community or fellowship play in helping you stay vigilant against attacks from the enemy?
5. Reflect on the armor of God described in Ephesians 6. Which pieces do you use regularly, and which might you be neglecting?
6. Think about the last time you were angry or upset. How did you handle that emotion, and what could have been a foothold for the enemy?
7. Have you ever experienced a situation where being proactive about a spiritual discipline protected you from a potential spiritual attack?
8. In what ways can maintaining a focus on 'whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable' (Philippians 4:8) help prevent the enemy from gaining a foothold?
9. Reflect on the connection between your thought life and giving the enemy a foothold. Are there thought patterns you need to change?
10. How can being transparent and accountable in a trusted Christian community help you guard against giving the enemy a foothold?

Children's Activity Page

a Brainy breakfast

Add a smart start to
your school day with

superfoods

that promote a
healthy body
and mind.



What you need:

- Large bowl
- 1 medium avocado
- 3 hard-boiled eggs
- Salt
- Whole wheat toast
- Pumpkin seeds, chopped
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Mash the avocado in the bowl.
2. Chop the eggs into cubes and add to the bowl.
3. Add salt to taste. Mix well.
4. Spread over two pieces of toast. Top with chopped pumpkin seeds.
5. Adjust this recipe with your favorite flavors. Add herbs, "everything bagel" seasoning or hot sauce.
6. Refrigerate leftovers in an airtight container.

Puzzle!

Use the words provided to complete the puzzle.
Then write the numbered words in the correct blanks
below to complete Psalm 67:6, NIV.

WORDS:

GOD, BLESSES, HARVEST,
YIELDS, US, LAND

ACROSS

3. Rhymes with farthest.
4. Rhymes with nod.
5. Rhymes with thus.
6. Rhymes with fields.

DOWN

1. Rhymes with messes.
2. Rhymes with hand.

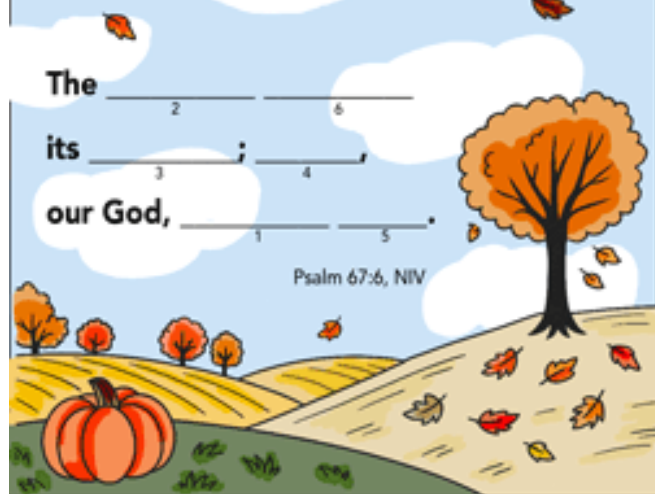


The _____

its _____

our God, _____

Psalm 67:6, NIV



Answer: The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. Psalm 67:6, NIV





September



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:30am Mark Bible Study 6:30 Read Thru Group 6:30pm Prayer Team	2 7:00pm RCYF Kickoff Night	3 6:00pm Galatians Bible Study	4	5
6 9am Worship Communion	7	8 8:30am Mark Bible Study 6:30 Read Thru Group	9 7:00pm RCYF	10 6:00pm Galatians Bible Study	11	12
13 9am Worship	14 6:30pm Elder's Mtg 7pm Consistory	15 8:30am Mark Bible Study 6:30 Read Thru Group	16 3:30pm Catechism 5:30 pm CS 7:00pm RCYF	17 6:00pm Galatians Bible Study	18	19
20 9am Worship Sunday School Kickoff Sunday	21 6:30pm Women's Bible Study Lesson 45	22 8:30am Mark Bible Study 6:30 Read Thru Group	23 7:25am See You at the Pole 3:30pm Catechism 5:30 pm CS 7:00pm RCYF	24 6:00pm Galatians Bible Study	25	26
27 9am Worship	28	29 8:30am Mark Bible Study 6:30 Read Thru Group	30 3:30pm Catechism 5:30 pm CS 7:00pm RCYF			



October



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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				1	2	3
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6:00pm
Galatians Bible
Study

4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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9am Worship
Communion

6:30pm
Women's Bible
Study Lesson
46

8:30am Mark
Bible Study
6:30 Read Thru
Group
6:30pm Prayer
Team

3:30pm Cate-
chism
5:30pm CS
7:00pm RCYF

6:00pm
Galatians Bible
Study

11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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9am Worship

6:30pm Elder's
Mtg
7pm Consistory

8:30am Mark
Bible Study
6:30 Read Thru
Group

3:30pm Cate-
chism
5:30pm CS
7:00pm RCYF

6:00pm
Galatians Bible
Study

18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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9am Worship

6:30pm
Women's Bible
Study Lesson
47

8:30am Mark
Bible Study
6:30 Read
Thru Group

7:25 am
See You
at the Pole
3:30pm Cate-
chism
5:30pm CS
7:00pm RCYF

6:00pm
Galatians Bible
Study

25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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9am Worship

8:30am Mark
Bible Study
6:30 Read
Thru Group

3:30pm Cate-
chism
5:30pm CS
7:00pm RCYF

6:00pm
Galatians Bible
Study