No Matter What Else is Happening in the World—Christmas is Coming!

(continued from front page)

- **December 24—**Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held at **6 p.m**. We will light the white CHRIST candle.
  The designated offering for this evening will be for the Brookings Area Back Pack program especially Sioux Valley students.
- **December 27**—Join us at 9:30 a.m. as we close out the year together. There will be NO Sunday School this week. Dennis Helder will be our guest speaker as Pastor Gary and Robyn are on vacation.



Ring the bells, ring the bells,
Let the whole world know
Christ the Savior lives today
As he did so long ago.

Upcoming Retreats and Events at Inspiration Hills

Registration for the 2027 retreats and events are open on their website - ihills@inspirationhills.org

Art of Parenting Retreat—January 15-17, 2027 - An opportunity for parents to step away from the busyness of everyday life, find encouragement, connect with other parents, and grow in their God-given role as parents.

Single Moms Retreat—January 29-31, 2027 - A special weekend dedicated to encouraging, refreshing, and supporting single moms through fellowship, rest, and Christ-centered community.

4th-6th Grade Winter Retreat—February 12-14, 2027 - A fun-filled weekend for students in grades 4-6 to reconnect with camp friends, experience exciting activities, and grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus!

Digging Deeper Bible Workshop—March 13, 2027 - A day dedicated to diving deeper into God's Word through biblical teaching, meaningful Christian community.

Art of Marriage Retreat—April 2-4, 2027 - A weekend designed for married couples to reconnect, strengthen their relationships, and invest intentionally in their marriages through biblical encouragement and fellowship.

First Reformed Church, Volga, SD

December 2026

Glad Tidings

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

No Matter What Else is Happening in the Word—Christ is Coming!!

- **December 6** —To begin the service, a praise team will lead the congregation in singing some praise songs/Christmas carols.
- The second Advent candle of PEACE will be lit.
  The bell choir will provide praise ministry. The annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately after the morning service. The Sunday School children will be dismissed to their various classes and program practice.
- **December 13 —** A mixed quartet will lead the congregation in singing some hymns/Christmas carols. The third Advent candle of JOY will be lit.
  A group will be going to Dakota Sun at 11 a.m. to worship with the residents there. Those involved in the Christmas program will be practicing in the sanctuary. Grades 6-12 will have Sunday School. The adult class will NOT meet.
- **December 20 —**The Sunday School Christmas program will be held during the morning worship service. Pastor Gary will share a short meditation. You are encouraged to bring a plate of Christmas 'goodies' to share during the fellowship time. There will be NO Sunday School.



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IN NEED OF PRAYER

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

- Russ Raatz had knee replacement surgery.
- Ken Pederson was hospitalized due to pneumonia.
- Howard Lindberg has viral pneumonia and was homebound.
- Dee Santema will be taking immunotherapy treatments for the cancer that was detected.
- Gene Kleinjan is now in The Neighborhoods at Brookview in Brookings.
- Gene Bjorklund is asking for prayers as he goes through testing related to cancer.
- Marv Bleeker had surgery on Wednesday, November 25.

Upcoming Ministry Meetings

December 14—Consistory
January 12, 2027—MESA Team
January 19, 2027—Buildings and Grounds Team

Heaven –Sent

(Penned by Dorothy Streeter in the 1990's)

The greatest light show that every occurred,
Was staged over two thousand year ago;
Above a small village called Bethlehem,
For a precious Babe in a manger low!

There were blazing stars and voices so sweet,
Radiance reflecting God's glory shone down;
A spectacular light illuminated the night.
For the King who would wear Heaven's crown!



Wonder of wonders, panorama of light -
Hope for a dark world—our gaze turns to the sky;
Like the shepherds of old, who were keeping watch,
We must share the good news with all who pass by!

Oh, thank you Lord, for you came to save
And for what your life, given for us, has meant;
That we can look forward to a "glorious day",
For we know that you, Jesus, were Heaven-sent!

Looking Back Ten Years…… December 2016!

- At the annual congregational meeting, the 2017 proposed budget was approved. Bev Cotton and Bruce Lucas were chosen as elders, and Jason Hove as a deacon.
- A group went to sing Christmas carols to the homebound at 3 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon.
- Fudge was made in the church kitchen to be given to the prisoners in the SD prison system.
- The Sunday School Christmas program entitled "Bethlehem GO" was presented on Sunday evening, December 18.

Highlights of Last Month (November 2026)

- Pastor Appreciation and New Member Recognition dinner was held on Sunday noon, November 1. A gift was given to Pastor Gary and Robyn.
- The combined Reformation Day service was held on Sunday evening with Pastor Kelle Craft bringing the message: *Reformed: According to the Word of God*. Work Group # 4 provided refreshments for the fellowship time which followed the service.
- The Youth Group is selling calendars again this year as a fundraiser for Power Connection and/or Rocky Mountain High.
- We witnessed the baptism of Walker Sterling Johnson, infant son of Sterling and Chloe Johnson.

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 **November 20, 2026,** Dori has tabulated **$112,307.98** in total receipts.
Thank you, Dori, for keeping track of the receipts.
A REMINDER: Please bring in your gas receipts also.
Keep eating, stay healthy and make every bite count.

E-Mail and Texting Prayer Lines

If you would like to be added to the text message list as well as the prayer line list, please contact Susan. It is your responsibility and privilege to check your e-mail to stay abreast of the prayer requests, whether a service/meeting has been cancelled due to weather or reminders that get sent out periodically.

The lines are only effective if we have the correct address or phone number. Please contact Susan if something has changed.

We prefer to only send prayer requests for immediate family members of the FRC membership and regular attendees.

Young people are encouraged to be on the list.

If you have a prayer request, you may contact Pastor Gary or Susan.

Bake Sale at the Beta Psi Gallery of Gifts



The FRC MESA Team has again decided to have a bake sale booth at the Beta Psi Gallery of Gifts on Saturday, December 5.

If you are willing to work in the booth, please sign the sheet on "the ladder' in the fellowship hall.

Calling all bakers — you are encouraged to supply baked goods to sell. Goodies of all kinds are welcome!

Please have your items wrapped and packaged attractively and brought to our booth at the school (use south door) **BEFORE** 8:30 a.m.

You do NOT have to price the items.

If it is more convenient for you, you may bring your items to the church kitchen by 7 p.m. on Friday night and they will be picked up and delivered for you.

MESA decided the proceeds from the bake sale will be split between the Angel Fund at Sioux Valley Schools and the Salvation Army.

"He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

Luke 1:32 and 33



Letters from our Compassion Children

(**Nelly from Bolivia**) September 10, 2026

Dear Friends,

I greet you with the peace of the Lord, hoping that you and your family are doing well. I also want to tell you that my family and I are doing well.

I also want to tell you that in August, my school had an activity where all the classes participated in a parade as part of a civic ceremony organized by the neighborhood around the school. That day, we were able to meet and spend time with students from other schools. We gathered in honor of the anniversary of Bolivia, which turned 201 years old .

Also, at the end of August, one of my teachers took my class and two other classes to the theater school at a Bolivian university, where we watched a performance of Romeo and Juliet. It was a very wonderful experience. The theater was large, and the actors performed really well. I liked it very much.

I also want to tell you that at the beginning of September, one of my uncles, my father's second brother, got married. It made me very happy to see my uncle take this important step and get married, since I consider him my second father and love him very much. That day was very joyful because I was able to spend time with relatives I had not seen in a long time.

My prayer request is for my family, for me, and also for my uncles who got married, Abraham and Guadalupe, that things will go well for them in this new stage of their lives.

Sincerely, Nelly

Dear Friends,

Firstly, **Raj sends you greetings**. He is doing well along with his family members. He hopes that you and your family members are also doing well by the grace of God. He said, it is rainy season here and it has been raining so heavily these days. He likes to get drenched in the rain but his parents do not allow him to do that. He would like to know if it rains in your country? Please pray for his family members.

Your loving, Raj (on behalf of Tutor)

Raj answered the following questions:

In my project, I am learning...wash hands, express my opinions, stand in a queue, obey rules.

About taking care of my body...learned to wash hands, wear clean clothes

About being polite and kind, I have learned...to help others in need, not to be angry and be a good-hearted person.

About my community, I have learned...to help other people.

About jobs people have, I have learned...that people work hard for their livelihood.

My favorite thing I have learned in my project is….to greet others in the morning.