

FAITH & LIFE

November 2025



GROW DEEP LIVE TALL

Jeremiah 17:7-8

First Christian Reformed Church

1401 16th St

Rock Valley, IA 51247

Rev. Matthew Haan

www.firstcrv.org

712-476-5902

“Singing Our Thanksgiving”



As the leaves turn and the air grows crisp, we are once again invited into one of the most beautiful rhythms of the Christian life—giving thanks. Thanksgiving is not merely a date on the calendar, or an annual feast. Thanksgiving is a posture of the heart that flows from knowing the goodness of our God that resounds throughout the verses of scripture, but particularly in the Psalms, *“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever.”* (Psalm 107:1).

What are your songs of thanks in this season? Are they songs of the Harvest? Or songs of New Birth? Songs of longing or songs of filling? Perhaps they are songs seeking patience or endurance? The Psalms hold all of these thoughts and desires not only in print for eyes to see, and minds to ponder but voices to sing from the mountaintops and the valleys, in the depths of the night, and the breaking of the morning.

Because giving thanks is not only a response to what God has done but also a call of confidence of what we know our faithful Triune Lord can do. Thus, in this season we are going to be walking through six Psalms and their partner hymns to aid our song in this season.

This Sunday we are beginning in Psalm 8, and singing the familiar hymn, “For the Beauty of the Earth”. This psalm and song remind our hearts to give thanks for the created order and for the placement of humanity within it.

On Nov. 2 we will walk through the sovereignty of God who gives us plans and designs in Psalm 34 with supplementally reading from 1 Chronicles 29:13, as we sing, “Now Thank We All Our God.”

On the 9th we will continue our series with Rev. Tim Ouwinga preaching from Psalm 86, focusing on giving thanks with a grateful heart.

On the 16th we celebrate baptism anew and turn to Psalm 36, enabling our minds and hearts to sing, “Count Your Blessings, Name Them One By One.”

On the 23rd we read from Psalm 100, as we enter the courts of the Lord with thanksgiving and with hearts full of praise. We will be invited to sing, “Bless the Lord O My Soul.”

Our series will culminate on Thanksgiving morning where we read from Psalm 145 and Lamentations 3, inviting us to join the praise of generations that resound with the confidence of lyric and song in the hymn, “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.”

The Lord is great in His faithfulness. We see this each week in worship, service, and the growing shape of the church community. The Lord is doing amazing things in our midst.

Thank you to everyone for the enormous blessing showered on our family in countless generous actions in the last month. We thank the Lord Triune for each one of you in prayer and song! You are an indescribable gift to us.

Blessings, Pastor Matt, Holly, Benjamin, Titus, Ezra, and Andrew

BIRTHDAYS

November 4 – Harriet Vande Kamp will be 89.

November 16 – Pat Kats will be 88.

November 26 – Claretta Lobbes will be 92.

November 30 – Harvey Van Otterloo will be 88.

November 20 – Lynnette Rozeboom

(Let's remember our janitor and all she does for 1st CRC)

ANNIVERSARIES

November 1 – Gerrit & Kay Vis will be married 51 years.

WELCOME, BAPTISMS, WEDDING BLESSINGS, & PRAISE

- We rejoiced with **Austin & Hannah (Van Tilburg) Folkens** as they were united in marriage in our Church on Saturday, October 4!
- We had the privilege to witness and celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism of **Kolter Matthew Kats**, infant son of Jerad & Hannah, during our morning worship service on Sunday, October 5!
- We had the privilege to welcome to our Church family, **John & Claretta Lobbes**, on Sunday, October 12! They transferred their membership papers from the First Christian Reformed Church of Orange City.
- We had the privilege to witness and celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism of **Tovey Jon Kats**, infant son of Taylor & Jessica, during our morning worship service on Sunday, October 19!
- We rejoice that **Laura Van Kalsbeek** is doing well and was able to return to her home at Northside in Hull!
- As a Church family we were able to encourage and express appreciation for **Pastor Matt, Holly, Benjamin, Titus, Ezra, & Andrew** throughout the month of October for Pastor Appreciation Month and gather for fellowship on October 12 for Pastor Appreciation Sunday with Cake & Coffee hosted by our Fellowship Committee!
- As a Church we were able to come together to support our Christian Education Chapter with the Annual CEC Auction!

We praise God for all of these joyous blessings that we are able to celebrate as a Church family!

SPECIAL CONCERNS

Church Family:

- **Paula Kats** underwent surgery Wednesday, October 8, to have part of her leg above the knee amputated due to diabetes and persistent health issues. Pray for Paula through this trying time and the recovery and adjustment she is enduring and for her continued health struggles. Pray for Galen and her family as they support her.
- **Nate Van Kley** continues the road to healing after his tongue surgery. He began radiation treatments this past week to help fight any remaining cancer. Pray for health and strength throughout each step of his journey.
- **Skyler Zomer** broke his kneecap during an ATV accident. Pray for continued healing and patience for Sklyer while his leg is in a brace.

Extended Family/Friends of our Church Family:

- **Gerald Van Den Top** (Father of Larae Van Der Brink) was diagnosed with cancer and will undergo intense treatments. Pray for health and strength for Gerald and for the entire Van Den Top extended family as they support him.
- **Judy Wesselink** (Mother of Kelsi Byl) was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent a lumpectomy surgery on September 8. Continue to pray for Judy through each stage of her journey.
- **Hazel Mae Van Der Brink** grand-daughter of Bob & Cherie Groeneweg, daughter of Erin & Alan, was born at 26 weeks and is in the NICU in Sioux Falls. Pray for continued growth, strength, and health for Hazel.
- **Jason Davelaar** (Father of Cody Davelaar, Alexis Rust, & Bradyn Davelaar) – Pray for Jason as he continues chemo treatments for cancer that he was diagnosed with in June.
- **Dan De Groot** – Pray for Dan and his continued battle with cancer.
- **Pray for our nation and the continuous turmoil and divide between good and evil, and for all nations experiencing daily warfare and persecutions.**

Continue to pray fervently for all who are anticipating or recovering from surgeries, those dealing with sickness & injuries, and those continuing their battles with cancer.

Remembering John De Roon

John P. De Roon, 80, of Rock Valley, Iowa, finished the race set before him and went to be with his Savior on Sunday, July 6, 2025. A funeral service was held Saturday, July 12, at 9:30 AM at the First Christian Reformed Church of Rock Valley with Rev. Matthew Haan officiating. John P. De Roon was born the youngest son of Peter and Lena (De Kam) De Roon on March 26, 1945. Tragedy struck early in John's life when his father was killed in a truck/train accident a month before his 3rd birthday.

John attended Rock Valley Christian Grade School and Western Christian High School long enough to learn everything he needed to know. After that he went to work for Bert Van Kekerix as a farmhand. The Van Kekerix Family became like a second family to John.

In September 1965 John was drafted into the United States Army. He completed his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. He was then stationed in Germany with the 85th Transport Company as a bus driver for 18 months. Upon his return from the service, John trucked for A.J. Haverhals Trucking and started farming north of Lebanon, on one of the family farms.

On April 17, 1968, he married Carol De Jager at the Maurice Reformed Church. Together they farmed and raised their family. In the fall of 2019, they moved to Rock Valley. After moving to town, John was a dedicated volunteer at Justice For All, baling clothes. When that job became too strenuous for him, he volunteered at Hope Haven, assembling parts for wheelchairs.

On John's days off from farming, he also worked sale days at Tri-State Livestock Auction in Sioux Center. At first as a yardman and later as weigh master on the block. In 1990 he established J&P Trucking with his son, Paul. They hauled everything and went everywhere until they had established themselves as Isowean transportation specialists.

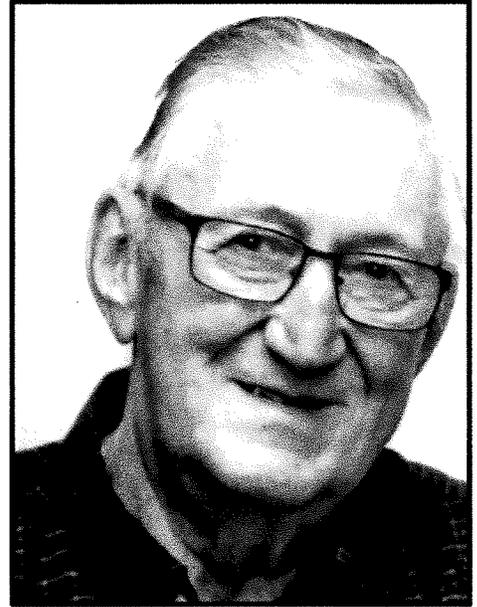
The highlight of John's life was the 20 plus years he and Carol took all of their grandchildren camping for a week at Lake Pahoja. The stories and fun memories were talked about until the next year. There is an ongoing conversation about just how many fishing poles and anchors are at the bottom of Lake Pahoja.

John was a member of the First Christian Reformed Church in Rock Valley and served as a Cadet Counselor, Catechism Teacher, Men's Bible Study Leader, and Elder. He also served on the board of Rock Valley Christian School.

John loved the Lord and knew he was saved by grace alone. He loved his family dearly and prayed for them every day.

Those holding his memories dear are his wife of 57 years, Carol; 4 children, Paul (Cheryl) De Roon, Carla (Pat) Bierne, Karen (Rob) Jansen, and Lisa (Justin) De Wit; 14 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; brother, Clarence De Roon; sister, Nellie Tilstra; and Carol's siblings, Elaine Roetman, and Marlene (Ron) De Jager.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Peter and Lena; parents-in-law, Rhodus and Henrietta De Jager; great-granddaughter, Wrenlee Hope DeWit; sister, Jennie (Wayne) Van Wyhe; brother-in-law, Rodney Tilstra; sister-in-law, Esther De Roon; and Carol's siblings, Joyce (Ed) Kroeze, Duane (Goldie) De Jager, and Dave Roetman.



Special thanks to the many family members for sharing their memories.

Memories of our Dad:

-The work of God's grace in him was best seen in his love and concern for his family's spiritual and physical well being. James 5:16 "the effectual fervent prayers of a righteous man availeth much."

-Dad always called me his favorite daughter in law.

At one point looking out the window and seeing 9 yr old Blake in the driver's seat of the pickup backing up a trailer into the wash out with grandpa standing outside telling him to keep going.

-The countless 200-mile trips he made for birthdays, school events and special occasions.

-Our yearly camping trips with Lawrence and Wanda Baartman. Dad and Lawrence put on their own Mr. Legs contest at the beach. I think they both won every year.

-One of the youngest memories I have is chasing cows very late at night in the Ford with a very angry JDR. I can still see the cow's rear end very close in the headlights. Riding through the pasture on Sunday afternoons, camping at Lake Shetek, dancing in the kitchen to 'Honky Tonk Man' and 'The Ring of Fire', going along with him to the sale barn and riding along hauling pigs are a few of the many other memories of I have with Dad. He came home from Men's Society when I was in high school and gave me thirty-five cents which was the cost of a phone call at the phone booth. Their lesson discussion talked about doing things like this for your kids so they always knew they could reach out to their Dad's for anything. I still have these coins in my jewelry box. He loved us all so well and truly was the very best! He was not perfect, but he served a perfect savior!

-I had the privilege of being asked to help him castrate his mule.

Memories of our Grandpa:

-When I think back on all the memories with Grandpa, it can all be summed up with one simple word: thankful.

Thankful for all the miles I spent riding in the passenger seat of the truck with him.

Thankful for getting to live on the same farm with him for most of my childhood.

Thankful for summer mornings sharing breakfast together.

And especially thankful for our camping trips at Pahoja.

Grandpa loved his family unconditionally and he knew where his salvation came from, I am grateful to have witnessed his love for family and Christ . Love you Grandpa.

-After Sunday dinner Grandpa always asked if you needed anything from their cellar grocery store whether it be salsa, spaghetti sauce, or applesauce.

From my very first Sunday dinner Grandpa treated me like I had always belonged, there's no such thing as in-law, with Grandpa I was family.

-My love for horses growing up was made true when Grandpa let us have 3 horses on the yard, not including the mini horse, donkey, and mule! I will forever remember Grandpa getting an old wooden carriage and telling us that hooking it up to Cherry (the mini pony) would work. He put me and Grandma on that old wagon for a ride! Let's just say the carriage only lasted that day. :)

-His love and pride of his grand kids and great grand kids. Just recently he wasn't having a good morning before church and was very weak. Grandma asked if he wanted to stay home, he told her no because he had to be there to give his great grandson Kamden a peppy.

-Grandpa and Grandma came to everything - every event, every recital, every ball game, anything we had going on. When I played basketball in high-school Grandpa was at about every game and he would keep track of all the 3 pointers I made and pay me \$5 for each one. He gave them to me at the end of the season all hanging on a basketball net.

-My favorite memories of grandpa were going camping every year and sitting around the fire cooking marshmallows and reading devotion. Watching him try to start anything with a flame was always interesting as well.

-Grandpa went with me to a concert when my friend couldn't make it. He fell asleep and when he woke up, he insisted he was ready to go then bought me an ice cream sandwich and put gas in my car.

-Getting a pink peppy from him every Sunday at church.

-Grandpa could never get a girlfriend or boyfriend's name correct for the first couple months. They often got called the previous girlfriend or boyfriend's name, a totally wrong name or whatever name grandpa misheard grandma tell him for the first couple months. Eventually when you stuck around long enough, he would finally get it- with lots of laughs from the cousins about the incorrect names grandpa called you in the meantime.

-Since I lived right across the yard about every day during the summer I would get up early with grandpa and go trucking with him. Most of the time when we would leave a barn and had to drive a few miles of gravel he would let me drive all the way to the blacktop. When we got home, we would have breakfast with grandma, and then I would be right beside him helping him with whatever he was doing on the farm.

During harvest time I could not wait to get off the bus to ride in the tractor with Grandpa hauling corn to town. Trips to town in the tractor were always a good time for me and Shane. I remember one time Grandpa's tractor needed a new exhaust pipe and he decided to use a plastic pipe. We made it about halfway to town before the pipe got hot and started to melt, so the melted, smoky pipe ended up inside the cab with me Shane and grandpa. Another time all 3 of us were parking gravity wagons and grandpa told us to get out and unhook the wagon. Shane and I warned him that we thought it was on too much of a hill and that it was gonna roll down, but grandpa responded with "I have been parking wagons for 40yrs it will not roll down the hill just go unhook it." So, Shane and I unhooked the wagon, got back in the tractor with grandpa, then we turned around to go the other way, and we watched the wagon roll right down the hill.

-My favorite memories with grandpa were going trucking and helping him with anything around the farm.

-John knew that I had lost both my grandpas at a young age and at Sunday dinner one day he said to me "I'm more than happy to be a grandpa to you here on earth." That meant so much to me and my heart is beyond happy thinking of him in heaven sharing stories with my grandpa Pete and Andrew. Reminiscing on their times working together at the sale barn and telling them about our boys while holding our Wrenlee.

-One of my favorite memories of Grandpa is when John and I would wake up early to help him make bottles and feed lambs with the glass Jarittos soda bottles, And choosing which of his lambs we wanted for the fair with him

-Nightly devotions around the campfire and the time he drove us in a white out back to town to be with our family after my grandpa Jansen passed

-The first time I met grandpa when dating Allison, he didn't even ask me my name but told me I was a keeper if I was keeping a ford diesel running.

-One of my favorite memories of grandpa was when he decided that I was going to drive home from Bomgaars and I hadn't really driven a manual before that. I ended up stalling his dually in the middle of highway 75 and all I can remember was grandpa telling me "you gotta hit the clutch John, you gotta hit the clutch".

-My favorite memory of grandpa was in the summertime helping him on the farm and with the big garden they had. There was always something that he needed help with. There was one time we were putting a new fence up by the hog buildings for the sheep and it was a really hot day. Grandma brought us gatorade, pop and cookies. Grandpa needed to cool off so after a couple drinks of his diet coke, he poured the rest on his head and also soaked his cap down too. My brothers and I still laugh about this often.

-My favorite memories of grandpa are all the time spent helping him on the farm. Whether it was helping him with the sheep every year as they lambed or helping with the garden that seemed to get bigger every year or helping at the hog barns. Helping on the farm also meant a lot of trips to Bomgaars and Mc Donalds.

Memories of our Great-Grandpa:

-I always remember Grandpa serving the ice cream after Sunday dinner. We would barely let him finish his dinner plate and would run over and ask for ice cream

-I always remember Grandpas baby lambs and him always being excited to show them to me

-I like all the costumes Grandpa got us from JFA; the Minion one was my favorite.

Congratulations Justin & Josie Faber!

Justin & Josie Faber were blessed with the birth of Rohen Josiah on July 15, 2025.

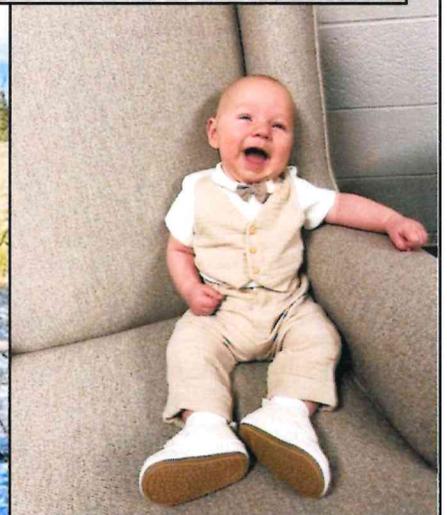
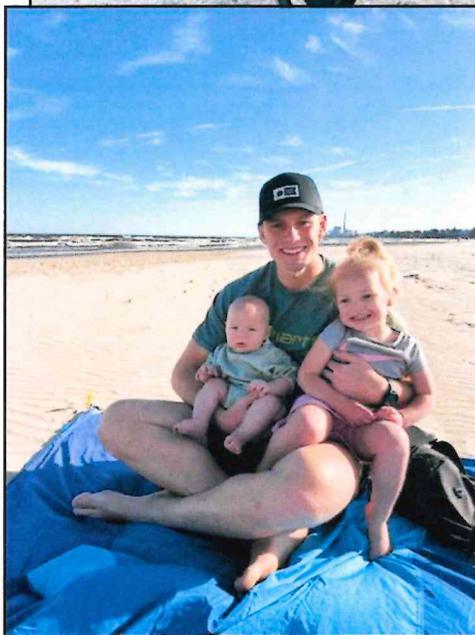
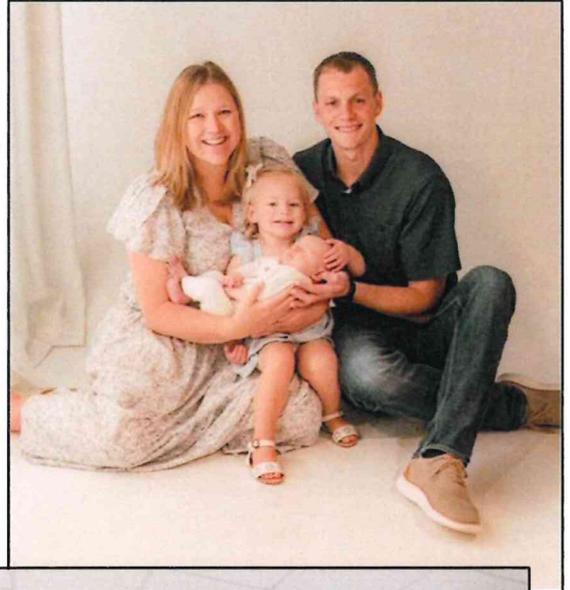
Rohen weighed in at 9lbs 9 oz and was 21 inches long. He was welcomed home by his two-year-old sister, Quinn.

Proud grandparents include:

Craig & Kristi Stiemsma and Jim & Melinda Faber.

Rohen's dad, Justin, is a financial planner with Equitable, and his mom is staying at home right now keeping busy with the two little ones.

They live in Rock Valley and enjoy family time outdoors and traveling when they can.



Congratulations Austin & Allison Blik!

Monty Alan was born July 23, 2025
to Austin & Allison Blik.

He weighed in at 10 lbs 2 oz
and was 22 inches long.

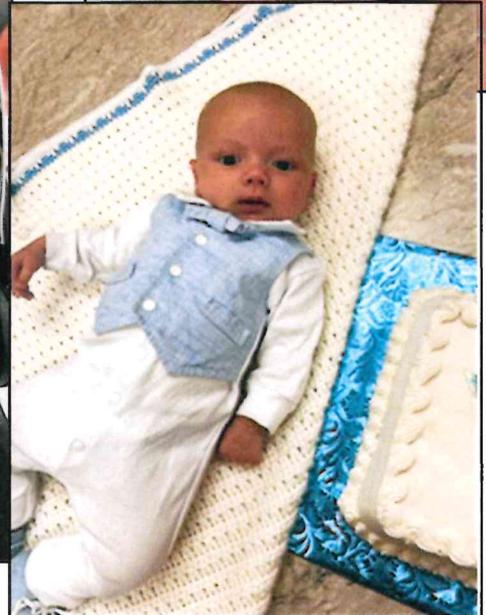
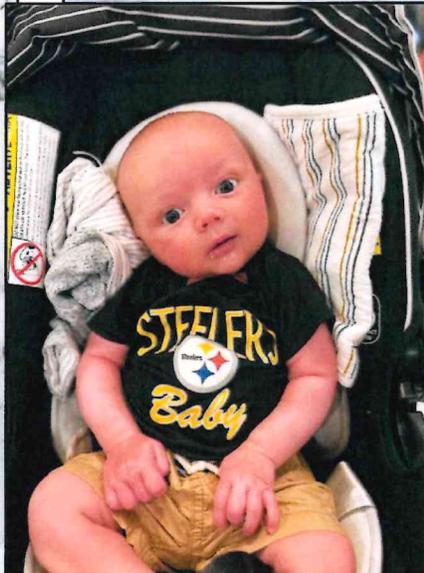
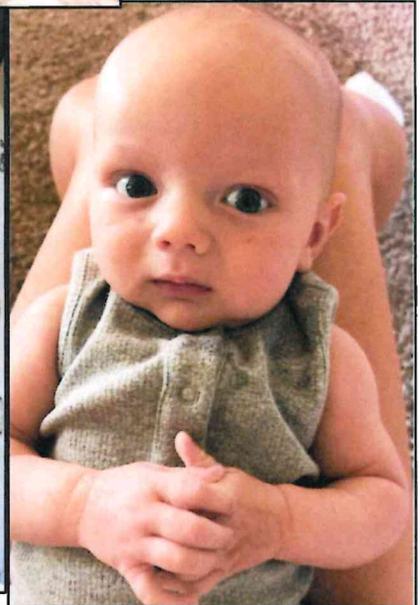
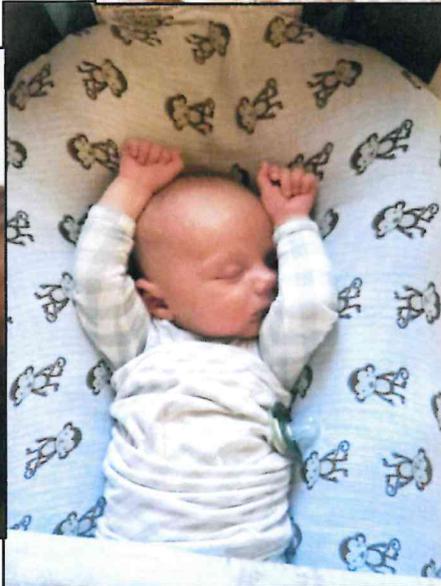
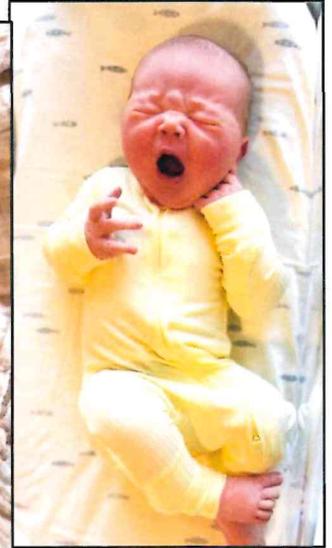
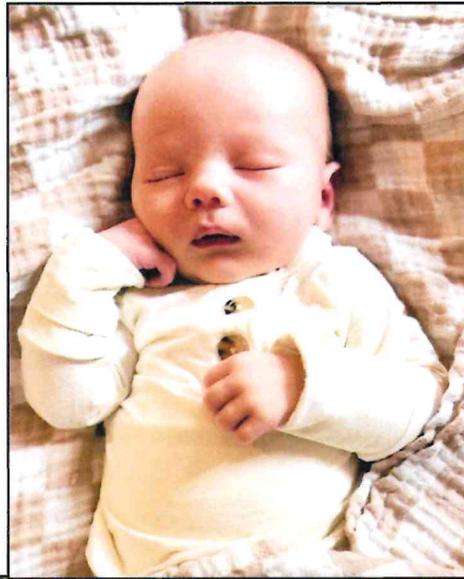
His excited siblings Emeri (8), Gentry (6)
and Janie (3) welcomed him home.

Proud Grandparents include:

Dave & Sonja Blik
and Doug & Kathy Van Beek.

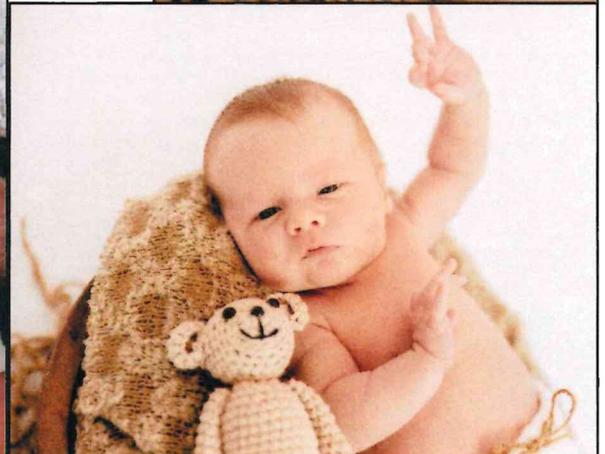
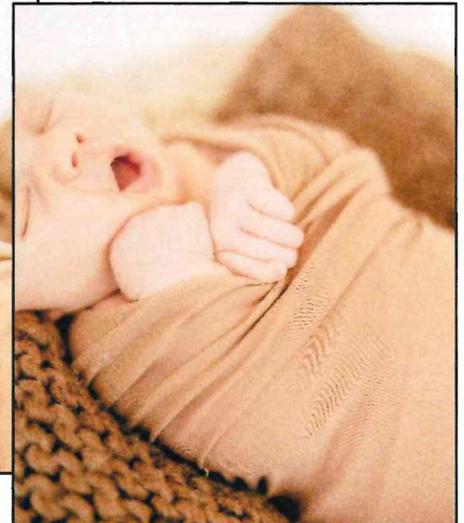
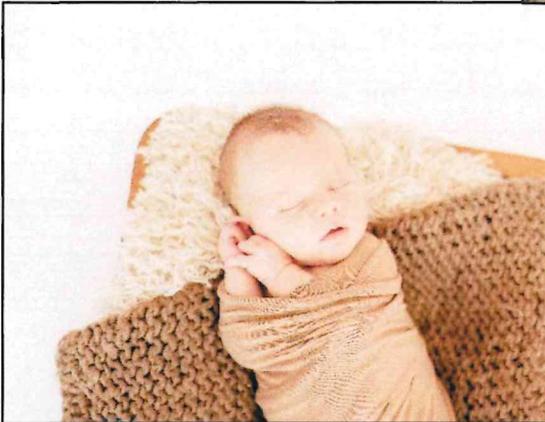
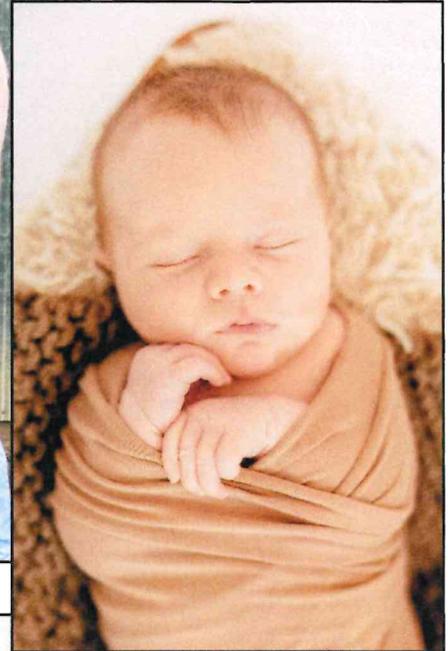
Monty's dad, Austin, is the shipping
coordinator at Siouxland Fab
and his mom, Allison, is a
massage therapist in RV.

Monty and his family live in the
country outside of Rock Valley.



Congratulations Jared and Hannah Kats!

Jared and Hannah Kats
welcomed home
Kolter Matthew Kats
born on August 20, 2025.
Kolter tipped the scales at 7 lbs 2 oz
and was 18.5 inches long.
His proud grandparents include
Missy Kats and Doug Hulstein.
Kolter's mom, Hannah, is a
Preschool teacher
and his dad, Jared, is a farmhand.
They live on an acreage
east of Inwood.
In their spare time, they enjoy lots of
family time and spending time with
their two dogs, Bailey and Casey.



Welcome Davis & Aubrie Van Roekel!

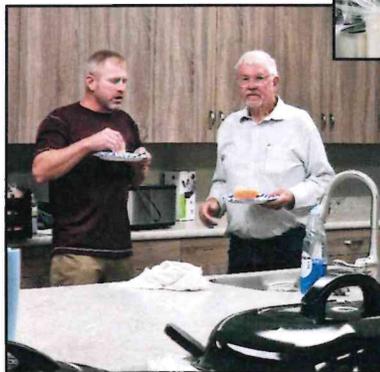
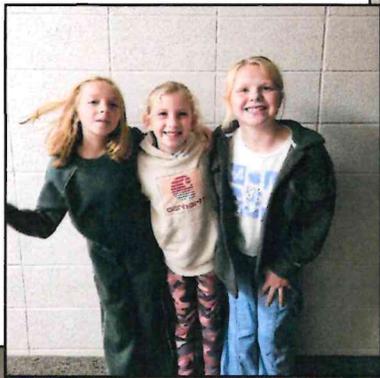
Davis is the son of Brad and Lorinda Van Roekel and grew up in Boyden, Iowa with his two younger brothers, Drew and Trey. He attended Boyden-Hull High School and graduated from Northwestern College with a marketing degree. He is currently pursuing his MBA online through the University of South Dakota and works at Brady Martz in Sioux Falls.

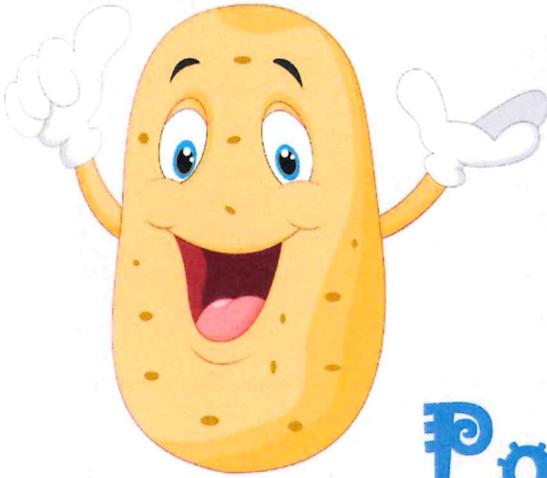
Aubrie is the daughter of Jeff and Kacie Van Bommel. She grew up in Rock Valley and attended Rock Valley Christian and Western Christian High School. She has four siblings, Delanie, Hadlie, Ryder, and Harper. She works as a loan assistant at Premier Bank and teaches workout classes at Pulse 712.

Davis and Aubrie met in February of 2022 at a fundraiser for the Sioux Falls Humane Society. They got married November 4, 2023, and lived in Sioux Falls until they moved back to Rock Valley this past May. In their free time they enjoy golfing, baking, taking their dog for walks, and spending time with friends and family.



CEC Auction October 15





IGNITE Youth Group Potato Bake

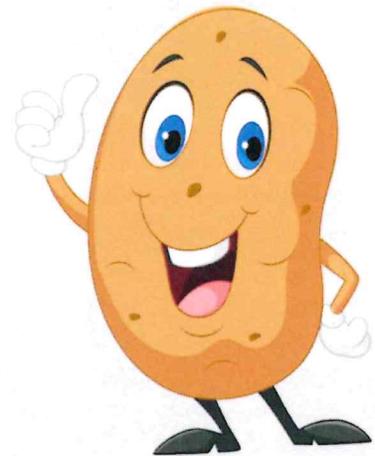


Date: **Wednesday, November 19**

Time: **5:00pm - 7:00pm**

Place: **First CRC Fellowship Hall**

**Enjoy hot baked Potatoes
with all the toppings
and a variety of
delicious salads!**



Free Will Donation

All proceeds will support
IGNITE YOUTH GROUP

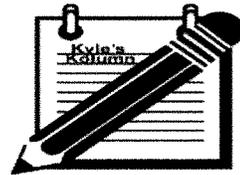
FIRST CRC ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Wednesday, November 19
7:00pm

*Bring your families, enjoy supper provided
by our Youth Group from 5-7pm,
and stay for the meeting at 7pm!*

Everyone is encouraged to attend!
Professing members vote



“Small Things”

Everyone's life is full of the big and the small. We often remember and can easily reflect on the big things in life, the big moments, the big memories, the big changes that occur because we make a decision with God or God makes a decision in our best interest. However, it is the small moments in life that play a big part as well.

Consider the attitude that you choose to have on a particular day. This may seem inconsequential to you as you go about your life, but in reality, it may do wonderful things for everyone you meet. The smile on your face, the good attitude you carry, the joy you share, that may impact someone for the better, perhaps without even noticing. Consider the choices you make in life. They may be a small choice like where to eat dinner. Perhaps you would choose to eat at a hamburger and hot dog stand that benefits a local charity. That small choice may have a great impact which you may not even get to fully see.

Too often, we dismiss the small things. We think they are insignificant, lack consequence and are just mundane everyday choices that everyone would make. Perhaps in and of themselves they are, but in reality, we serve a God who can take a small thing and make it big. We serve a God who can take the simple step and make it a leap forward for his kingdom.

This may not cause us to change any of the small things that we do in life, but here's hoping and praying that it allows us to see the God that continually works in and through us. Here's hoping that we can trace small decisions made in God's timing and purpose, turning into big blessings. Here's hoping and praying that small can become great, that little can become big, and work can continuously be done in and through us.

Consider the small, consider the impact. Remember that God is continuously working in and through each of us and all that we do, say, and who we interact with. What great things will God do next in my life, in your life, and in the lives that we touch each and every day? My prayer is that we get to see glimpses of these impacts each day.

The Wheeled Worshiper



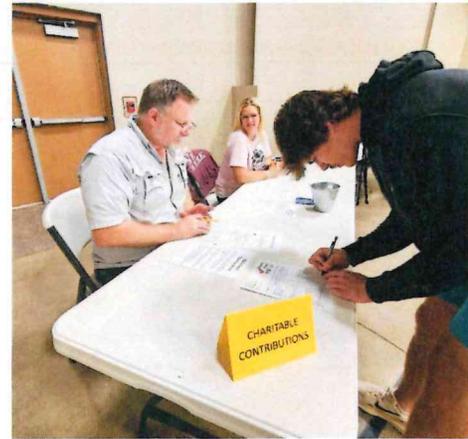
love in the name of Christ

FALL 2025

NEWSLETTER

Reality Check

Reality Check is an interactive budget simulation where students learn first hand the importance of sound financial decisions and develop their understanding of the day-to-day choices that will impact their future. On October 14, the Love INC staff hosted Rock Valley Community School along with Netherlands Reformed Christian School to conduct this simulation for the seniors.



THANK YOU to the many volunteers that made this ministry happen!

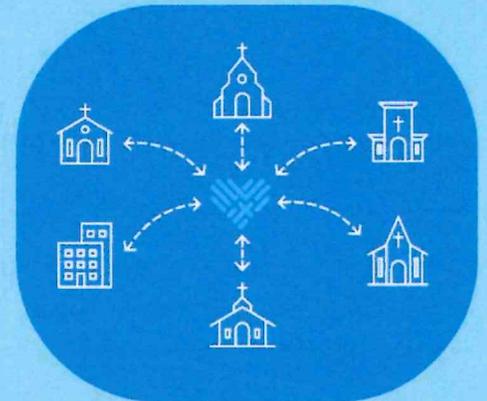


WE'RE HIRING

CHURCH AMBASSADOR

Job Responsibilities:

- Develop and/or strengthen partnerships with churches in Sioux County
- Coordinate Reality Check, R&R:Refresh and Renew, Prayer Team ministries and volunteers
- Maintain documentation processes, reports, and database.
- Participate in annual GAP ministries alongside Staff and Board



Requirements:

- A personal relationship with Jesus Christ and a heart for Christian service.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, comfortable giving presentations and praying in groups.
- Computer skills: knowledge of Word, Excel or Google Docs required.
- Willingness to work with various Christian church denominations.
- Motivated, self-starter that works well independently and collaboratively within a team setting.



Send your resume to:

Email: director@loveincsiouxcounty.org

For a full job description and more information contact us at:
712-476-5990
P.O. Box 85, Rock Valley, IA 51247
www.loveincsiouxcounty.org

Love Story....

Simple conversations can lead to big results when God's in the middle! A men's bible study made up of men from various churches was talking about ways to volunteer in their community. One participant stopped at the Love INC office looking for direction on how to find opportunities and do this. Well he came to the right place! The only thing he had to say was we're a group of guys willing to do various smaller simple projects and we've already been able to utilize them to make a delivery. When we didn't really have names to call for random project help, we now do! It's not just one volunteer; it's a network of men who know more men and I can only imagine what their impact will be as needs continue to arise that they can help us fill.

Board of Directors

Josh Vermeer- Board Chair,
New Life Church, Sioux Center

Missy Dokter- Vice-Chair
Trinity Reformed, Orange City

Becky Statema-Treasurer
Calvin CRC, Rock Valley

Dawn Hummel- Secretary
United Methodist, Hawarden

Chanda Bakker
Hope CRC, Hull

Taylor Harberts
Faith Reformed Church, Rock Valley



Training session on classroom management

Serving Others with Excellence

Teachers and students in many parts of Africa are starting a new school year this month. Here in Guinea, our team conducted a series of weekly trainings for teachers throughout the month of September, guided by the theme: "Serving God's children with excellence" from 1 Peter 4:10-11.

The training participants were very eager to engage, share, and learn from one another as we spent time discussing biblical worldview and integration with attention to the national curriculum, early childhood development, and spiritual formation, among other topics. A few participants shared their learning experiences:

"I understand now that learning is much more than just memorization. Young children need to be able to move, touch materials, and be actively engaged in the learning process. I'm going to require teachers at my school to implement hands-on learning activities."

- Mr. Alpha, School Director

"I'm going to change the way I handle discipline in my classroom. In the past, my approach didn't always reflect the truth that my students are image bearers of God. From now on, I'll make sure that every student's dignity is honored and protected."

- Mrs. Djenabou, preschool teacher

The Teacher's Garden team was pleased to award certificates to 47 of the teachers who successfully completed the learning requirements. The training concluded with a commissioning prayer for these Christian educators as they prepared to return to their classrooms.

Reflecting on the Past School Year:

The school year that ended in June was a blessed with yet another encouraging story. The Teacher's Garden has provided training,

coaching and pastoral support for teachers from a large network of 32 Christian schools in Guinea. When the students from these schools took the annual

standardized tests, their achievements were outstanding in comparison with the national trends. Please see the quantitative overview below:

	Christian Schools served by the Teacher's Garden	State's Combined Results
Elementary School	84.25%	58.65%
Middle School	66.46%	54.16%
High School	55.65%	32.34%
Median	68.78%	48.38%

Let us give thanks to God for these schools and for the lives of their students, teachers, and the Teacher's Garden team for these encouraging outcomes!

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen." – 1 Peter 4:10



Teacher's Garden, Trainees' Group Photo



Hands-on learning activity with teachers

Family:

Our youngest, Samuel, just turned 10 and loves to engage in creative activities like drawing and making his own video games.

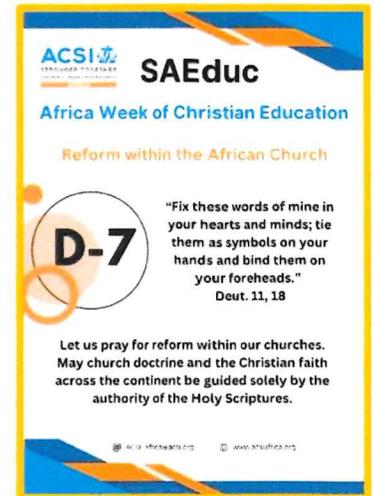


Samuel and Isaac showing their latest video projects to Dad

Nathanael, 15 is developing a deeper passion for soccer and joins his school peers playing regularly in various games. Isaac, 13, was elected as the middle school representative on the student council for the second year in a row through a highly competitive process. The combination of his confidence, and passion to serve others, as well as the affirmation of his peers through this appointment blesses our hearts as parents.



Awarding Certificates to teachers, Zimbabwe



Ready to launch the Africa week of Christian education



Sosthene Speaking in the ACSI Southern Africa roundtable"



Meeting with Christian Educators from Zambia

Thanksgiving and Prayer Items

- Praise God for His sustained favor, protection and strength upon our family
- Pray for renewed strength upon teachers across Africa for fruitfulness in the new school year
- Pray for Sosthene and his ACSI team as they launch the Africa Week of Christian Education (SAEduc2025) through a continental prayer gathering on Monday, Oct 20.
- Pray for God's providence and an increase in financial support for the Teacher's Garden so it can deliver on its ministry goals for the new year and beyond.

The Teacher's Garden needs your support!

To give go to:

www.theteachersgarden.org/donate



or mail a check to:

The Teacher's Garden
PO Box 12
Rock Valley, IA 51247

The Teacher's Garden is a 501(c)(3c) nonprofit

To support our regular ministry work in Africa, go to:

<https://www.resonateglobalmission.org/missionaries/sosthene-and-kara-maletoungou>

Or you can mail a check to:

Resonate Gift Processing
PO Box 30006
Lansing, MI 48909-9760

(Be sure to note "Maletoungou" in the memo line)

Thank you for your prayers and support!

Dr. Sosthene and Kara Maletoungou, E-mail: smaletoungou@crncpartners.org; smaletoungou@acsi.org

Resonate Global Mission, 300 E Beltline Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506; www.resonateglobalmission.org; www.acsiafrica.org



“Giving Thanks For All Things”

It's easy to list the blessings in life: good health, family, a satisfying career, a comfortable home. We might even be thankful for things others take for granted such as freedom and clean drinking water, reliable transportation and food enough to eat. Then there are the little things, such as gardens, sunrises, pets and coffee.

But what about life's storms or unanswered prayers? Should we be thankful for these? Loss and hardship remind us of our dependence on God. He uses trials to draw us closer to him, to show us that He is our rock and refuge. In misfortune and grief, we discover God's comfort and strength. Should we not, then, be thankful for the storms, too?

“A Day to Honor Our Veterans”



On November 11, 1918, the Germans and the Allied Nations, which included the United States, signed a document to initiate an armistice (cessation of hostilities), thus ending World War I. A year later, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation designating November 11 as Armistice Day. It was to be a day of reflection — a day to remember those who died in the country's service and to offer Americans the opportunity “to show sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation.”

Wanting to recognize more specifically America's veterans, Congress passed a bill changing the name of the day from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. The change was made in May 1954.

On this national holiday, churches around the nation hold services of prayers and praise. Followers of the Prince of Peace pray for peace among the nations of Earth and for the day when “they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4, NRSV).

“Take Me to the River”

God often works in unexpected ways. Just ask Naaman, the army commander in 2 Kings 5:1-14. Stricken with leprosy, he traveled to Israel seeking healing from the prophet Elisha. Instead of an impressive display or a grand ceremony, Elisha sent word for him to simply wash seven times in the Jordan River.

Naaman was not impressed. “Aren't the rivers of Damascus better than all the waters of Israel?” he asked. Why bathe in a foreign, muddy river when the clean, sparkling rivers of home were far more appealing? It didn't make sense. Yet what seemed absurd became the very path to his healing.

We may not be told to wade into an actual river, but we all face “Jordan moments” in life — times when God calls us to take a step that feels uncomfortable, humbling or completely illogical. It is in those moments that trust and obedience matter most.

Naaman's story reminds us that God's power is not limited by appearances or human reasoning. Sometimes the action that feels least likely to work is the one that opens the door to blessing. When God invites you to take the plunge, step into the water. You may find healing and hope waiting there.

~adapted from Homiletics.com

Bible Trivia

James 1:17 reminds us about the source of every blessing. According to this verse, how is God described?

- A. The one who changes like shifting shadows
- B. The giver of wisdom to the faithful
- C. The Father of heavenly lights who does not change
- D. The one who rewards those who are generous

See next page for answer





“Remembering the Saints”

When Paul wrote to the church in Rome, he addressed his letter “To all God’s beloved ... who are called to be saints” (Romans 1:7, NRSV). Paul regarded his fellow believers as people who have responded to the good news of Christ by choosing to follow and serve God.

The New Testament emphasizes that Christians are God’s beloved — special people set apart to receive his grace and to be his witnesses. All people whose minds and hearts are devoted to God are “called to be saints.”

About 700 years after the church began, leaders designated November 1 as All Saints’ Day to honor people whose lives reflect Christ dwelling within them. Because of what God has done for us; all Christians can wear the label of saint.

“A Thanksgiving Prayer”

Gracious God,
thank you for every good gift—
for the food before us,
the people around us,
and the love that surrounds us.
Help us to pause, reflect, and rejoice
in Your constant goodness and grace.
May our hearts overflow with gratitude,
not just today, but every day.
Amen.

“Be Prepared...to Wait”

My husband always keeps a book handy. When he picks up our kids or heads to an appointment, a current title is tucked securely under his arm. He expects to wait — and is prepared to do so. What could have been a frustrating delay turns into extra time to delve further into the story.

I, on the other hand, get caught off-guard if a doctor runs late or a meeting runs long. As the minutes tick by, my down time gets wasted — unless I quietly reflect on God’s goodness, return an email, take a short walk or chat with the person next to me.

“Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord,” says Psalm 27:14 (NIV). That’s an important reminder as Advent nears. Scripture advises us to use our waiting time wisely, preparing for God and drawing closer to him. What will you do while you wait for Jesus? ~Janna Firestone

“Abundant Blessing”

There is plenitude in God. That great fact must never be lost or obscured. We must not exchange this immense graciousness for a few scraps of human morality or a few shopworn proverbs. God is a vast reservoir of blessing who supplies us abundantly. ~Eugene H. Peterson, *Traveling Light*

“Christian Symbol”



CIRCLE — The circle is a symbol for God, as well as for eternity, due to its lack of a beginning or an end. It also reminds us of how the church year (not unlike the secular calendar) flows from season to season and moves smoothly from Christ the King Sunday (the culmination of the liturgical calendar) to the First Sunday of Advent (a new beginning). Indeed, the One who rules all is the same One whose first and final comings we anticipate anew during Advent.



Letter writing to our Missionaries

RIBBENS

MALETOUNGOU

KLOMPIEN

November 2	Galen G	Irene G	Brad G
November 9	Bob G	Marva H	Kelly H
November 16	Larry H	Pastor Matt H	Mike H
November 23	Eddie H	Leonard H	Steve H
November 30 Communion 1 st Sunday of Advent	Betty H	Darwin H	Kyle H

Resonate Global Mission

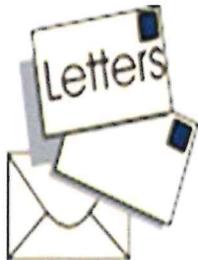
Attn: Rev. Michael & Megan Ribbens

1700 28th St SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

EMAIL: mribbens@crna.org – Mike

mribbens@gmail.com – Megan



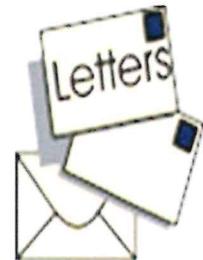
Resonate Global Mission

Attn: Rev. Sosthene & Kara Maletoungou

1700 28th St SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

EMAIL: smaletoungou@crnapartners.org



Resonate Global Mission

Attn: Mark K family

1700 28th St SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

*Please mail to Mark



Children in Worship

November 2	Leader: Jill M	Helper: Isaac P
November 9	Leader: Jill M	Helper: Isaac P
November 16	Leader: Samantha P	Helper: Alison L
November 23	Leader: Samantha P	Helper: Abby A
November 30	Leader: Hadlie VB	Helper: Harper VB

GREETERS



November 2	Mike Van Zanten Jack & Kelsey Ver Burg Gerrit & Kay Vis	Harm & Bonnie Wiersma Ryan & Kelci Zevenbergen Blake & Genae Zomer	Ron & Darletta
November 9	Ryan & Jamie Zomer Evan & Kim Altena Lynette Altena	Mike & Tammy Baartman Myron & Amy Bleyenbergh Austin & Allison Bliet	Eric & Tracy
November 16	Dan & Shannon Bloemendaal Elmer & Lori Boon Karl & Alyssa Bos	Eric & Tracy Breuer Josh & Katie Byl Mitchell & Kelsi Byl	Rog & Hilaine
November 23	Randy & Pat Byl Bradyn & Braelee Davelaar Cody & Em Davelaar	Rick & Bonnie Davelaar Vern & Carol De Boer Kevin & Diana De Groot	Larry & Yvonne
Thanksgiving	Zach & Jamie De Jager Erin De Kam Steve & April De Kam		
November 30 Communion 1st Sunday of Advent	Ron & Darletta LeLoux Tim & Kim Van Tilburg Leonard & Deb Hoekstra	Jaden & Katlien Den Boer Tyler & Alli Den Boer Michael & Jamie Ellenberger	Vern & Ellen

SOUND VIDEO PPT Pianist Organist PRAISE TEAM

November 2	Mike H	Rich R	Carla J	Krista VE	Kelsi B, Ashley VO, Andy VR, Mike B
November 9	Blake Z	Alex K	Cowan VK	Jackie R	Mer VO
November 16	James VB	Ron L	Tammy B	Ranae K	Jamie W, Julie VO, Evan VB, Benjamin H
November 23	Rich R	Aiden VR	Jaydn L	Carisa M	Tracy B
Thanksgiving	Leonard H	Carter VB	Aiden VR		Tricia M, Tammy B, Jack VB, Nolan VO
November 30 Communion 1st Sunday of Advent	Jack VB	Brian F	Benjamin H	Krista VE	James VB

USHERS



November 2	East: Arnold K, Bob G West: Benjamin H, Keith L	AM PM	Judy VO, Tad M, Jordyn K Sharla VR, Harper VB
November 9	East: Taylor K, Rick D West: Joe M, Gene L	AM PM	Jamie Z, Brennan VK, Ezra H Tammy B, Erica VR
November 16	East: Cody D, Mike B West: Cole VDB, Titus H	AM PM	Shannon B, Jenessa VR, Ada K Jamie DJ, Addison VH
November 23	East: Josh B, Mike VZ West: Dan B, Darin P	AM PM	Kelsi B, Kennedy VH, Faith K April DK, Abby A
Thanksgiving	East: Joel B, Matt VE West: Tyler DB, Alvin L	AM	Deb H, Kaysha A, Kate L
November 30 Communion 1st Sunday of Advent	East: Arnold K, Bob G West: Benjamin H, Keith L	AM PM	Aftyn B, Teeghan B, Jaelyn K, Sloan M, Peyton R Kristin J, Noah DK



2025

2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <i>the Gerrit Vis' (51)</i>
2	3 Joel Baartman	4 Harriet Vande Kamp (89) <i>the Kevin Jansma's</i> <i>the Davis Van Roekel's</i>	5 Amanda Maassen <i>the Jacob Maassen's</i>	6	7 Cherie Groeneweg Larry Haak Jared Kats <i>the Randy Vande Kamp's</i>	8 Shanna Leloux <i>the Charlie Poppema's</i>
9 Kamden Jansen Rashana Mulder	10	11 Atlyn Bleyenbergh Kennedy Van't Hul	12	13 Brian Faber Darin Pallega Jeff Van Bemmel Mike Van Zanten Shelby Van't Hul	14 Alvin Leloux Pam Maassen James Vanden Bos Jaslyn Van Otterloo <i>the Ver Van Bemmel's</i>	15 Jake Davelaar
16 Pat Kats (88) Jason Timmerman	17 <i>the Mike Koistra's</i>	18 Katie Byl Kacie Van Bemmel	19	20 Kenzie Koanima Lynnette Rozeboom <i>the Austin Bliet's</i>	21 Travis Jansen <i>the Randy Byl's</i> <i>the Dereck Van Der Brink's</i>	22 Alayna Davelaar <i>the Evan Vanden Bosch's</i>
23	24	25	26 Claretta Lobbes (92)	27	28	29 Shannon Bloemendaal Eric Breuer
30 Harvey Van Otterloo (88)						