



# Fellowship Findings

Sully Christian Reformed Church

December 2023  
Vol. 41, No 12

## Inside This Issue

Search Comm .....2  
 Coffee Servers .....2  
 Council Clippings .....2  
 Financial Report .....3  
 Kids Page .....4  
 Greeters/Nursery .....5  
 Birthday/Anniversary .. 6-7  
 Thank You.....6  
 Missionaries ..... 8-24  
 From the Archives ... 25-26

## Our Mission

WHAT GOD IS CALLING US TO DO

Cultivate space for people to experience the transforming love of Christ.

## Our Vision

WHAT GOD IS CALLING US TO BE

A family of believers experiencing personal transformation, *Romans 12* using their unique gifts, *Ephesians 4* to glorify GOD *I Corinthians 10:31* and edify others. *I Thessalonians 5:11*

## August Worship

December 3	AM—Pastor Ralph Pontier PM—Pastor Ralph Pontier
December 10	AM—Mr. Scott Roose PM—Small Group Discussion
December 17	AM—Pastor Will Verhoef—Communion PM—Candle Light Service
December 24	AM—Mr. Scott Roose PM—No service
December 25	AM—Christmas Service—Mr. Scott Roose
December 31	AM—Mr. Royce Spoelstra PM—Mr. Royce Spoelstra



## Worship TIMES

Morning Worship  
9:30 a.m.

Evening Worship  
5:00 p.m.



### Dates of Interest:

Communion... December 17  
Candlelight Serv..... Dec. 17  
Christmas Serv..... Dec. 25

VISIT US ONLINE AT [WWW.SULLYCRC.ORG](http://WWW.SULLYCRC.ORG)

# Search Committee

## Search Committee Update:

The search team is looking forward to welcoming Pastor Jack Vanden Heuvel to lead us from February 1st through April. Keep an eye out in the PPP for a bio of Pastor Jack.

We have compiled a new list of candidates and are working our way through the profiles and initial contacts.

Please pray for us as we discern, and for the candidates as we make contact. The congregation is welcome to submit names of pastors to consider.

## Coffee Servers

Dec. 3	Trevor and Jerri Nikkel
	Jaden and Kelly Vos
Dec. 10	Stuart and Sheila Pleima
	Ed and Judy Van Kooten
Dec. 17	Steve and Sharon Fopma
	John and Jacie Kramer
Dec. 24	Jamie & Michelle V Kooten
	Tyler, Derek, Emily, VS
Jan. 7	Harlan & Norma Beerends
	Larry & Joan Pleima
Jan. 14	Carroll & Marla Fopma
	Zack & Brooke Dunsbergen
Jan. 21	Mike VM & Val Nikkel
	Stan Fopma & Loren V Wilt
Jan. 28	Dennis & Staci Schut
	Kevin & June Veenstra

Make juice on Saturday so that it has time to chill. Meet in the church basement before the service to set up. Instructions are in the kitchen. If unable to serve, please trade with someone



# Council Clippings

**PLEASE NOTE:** Under the new council organizational structure, full council will no longer be meeting monthly. Council clippings will be provided through the Fellowship Findings in the months council meets.

1. Chairman Dale Van Wyk opened the meeting with devotions and prayer. The needs of many in the church and community were lifted in prayer.
2. Financial information and reports were reviewed. The general fund balance is at about \$130,000 with an additional \$100,000 in an 11 month CD.
3. Communion dates were set for 2024: March 29 (Good Friday), June 16, September 15 and December 15.
4. The Discipleship Committee is planning a dinner with a question and answer session related to profession of faith. More information will be provided on this soon.
5. The Hospitality Committee provided a report on their work over the past 6 months, including several church/community meals or potlucks that have taken place and updating the greeter and coffee server schedules heading into 2024.
6. Council approved a recommendation from the Building and Grounds Committee to make needed repairs to the organ.
7. Representatives from the New Facility Committee joined the council to discuss next steps. There will be a congregational meeting on December 4 to vote on affirming the concept work of the committee and moving forward with setting up a capital campaign team to begin raising funds to support the proposed funds. We will allow absentee ballots, so the time of discussion will occur after the vote.
8. The Search Committee has been in contact with an interim pastor candidate.
9. We will hold an Easter Sunrise Service again in 2024. More details will be provided as we get closer to the service.
10. Landon Van Zante closed in prayer following the singing of "Doxology."

# BUDGET REPORT



April Report			
Category	Amount	Year to Date Received	Year to Date Budgeted
General Fund (includes Ministry Share)	\$22,503.47	\$170,763.19	\$186,684.12
Missions	\$ 1,597.72	\$ 11,950.28	\$ 11,749.98
Building and Grounds	\$ 1,808.81	\$ 13,741.35	\$ 15,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,910.00</b>	<b>\$196,454.82</b>	<b>\$213,434.10</b>

Offerings Received		
Date	Recipient	Amount
November 5	Joshua Christian Academy	\$3,083.00
November 12	Sully Christian School	\$1,984.00
November 19	Mobility World Wide (Pet)	\$2,476.00
November 23	Thanksgiving Offering	\$87,162.82
November 26	Christian Education Encouragement Fund	\$1,298.00

## December Offering Schedule

December 3	Bible League
December 10	Sully Christian School with SCS Envelope Offering
December 17	AM—Benevolence                      PM—412 Youth
December 24	412 Youth (No Evening Service)
December 25	Holt International
December 31	Christian Education Encouragement Fund

# KIDS PAGE

# Puzzle!

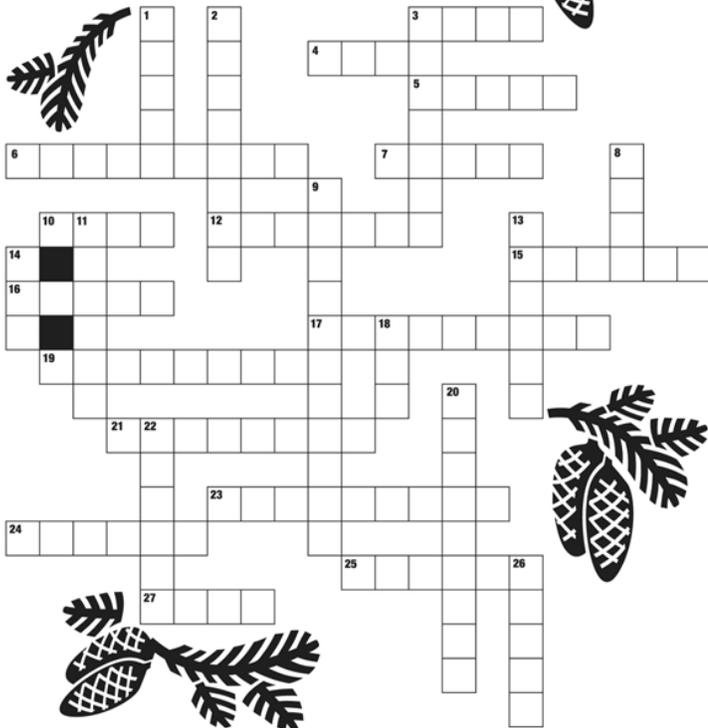
Take a break from Christmas preparations to complete this seasonal crossword.

### DOWN

1. song
2. keeper of sheep
3. Anointed One
8. a gift of the magi
9. red plants
11. coming
13. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_
14. 12th month (abbrev.)
18. B&B
20. a form of holly
22. heavenly messengers
26. he ordered the slaughter of the innocents

### ACROSS

3. wise men
4. author of the most famous Christmas account
5. red-suited gift-giver
6. of Ephrathah
7. presents
10. Gabriel came to her
12. has a red nose
15. "Messiah" composer
16. northern little helpers
17. patron saint of children
19. made flesh
21. home for Mary
23. tree decorations
24. crib
25. he was a carpenter
27. a nova



Answer: DOWN 1. carol, 2. shepherd, 3. Messiah, 8. gold, 9. poinsettias, 11. Advent, 13. Christ, 14. dec, 18. inn, 20. mistletoe, 22. angels, 26. Herod; ACROSS 3. magi, 4. Luke, 5. Santa, 6. Bethlehem, 7. gifts, 10. Mary, 12. Rudolph, 15. Handel, 16. elves, 17. Saint Nick, 19. incarnate, 21. Nazareth, 23. ornaments, 24. manger, 25. Joseph, 27. star

## 'Twas the Night Before Jesus Came

-Source Unknown

'Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house,  
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.  
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care,  
In hopes that Jesus would never come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed,  
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.  
And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap,  
Was watching The Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!

When what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.  
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray  
I knew in a moment this must be The Day!

The light of His face made me cover my head.  
It was Jesus! Returning just like He had said.  
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,  
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.

In the Book of Life which He held in His Hand,  
Was written the name of every saved man.  
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name.  
When He said "It's not here," I hung my head in shame!

The people whose names had been written with love,  
He gathered to take to His Father above.  
With those who were ready, He rose without a sound,  
While all the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late:  
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.  
I stood and I cried, as they rose out of sight.  
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear,  
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.  
There's only one life and when comes the last call,  
We'll find that the Bible was true after all.

Reprinted Content & Original Graphic Design by [www.niecyisms.com](http://www.niecyisms.com)



Greeting Schedule		Nursery	
Dec. 3	(N) Dan and Sharla Dunsbergen	Dec. 3	Heather Zylstra
	(S) Kevin and Jared Laverman		Katie Zylstra
Dec. 10	(N) Gary and JoAnn Fynaardt		Ali Pleima
	(S) Ed and Joyce Dieleman	Dec. 10	Michelle Van Kooten
Dec. 17	(N) Nolan and Karla Vos		Averie Plowman
	(S) Tim and Rindy Vander Schel		Lily Vander Leest
Dec. 24	(N) Kelsi Van Haaften	Dec. 17 Candlelight Service-PM	Kelly Vos
	(S) Kevin and Melanie Van Maanen		Aspen Kramer
Dec. 31	(N) Clarence and Judy Van Zee		Erica Vos
	(S) Jud and Pam Vos		<b>PM-Jentri/Aaron V W</b>
Jan. 7	(N) Bryce and Donna Arkema	Dec. 24	Melanie Van Maanen
	(S) Randy and Karen Altena		Ada Van Wyngarden
Jan. 14	(N) Harris and Darlene Vos		Erika Van Maanen
	(S) Bob and Marilyn Van Soelen	Dec. 25	Pam Vos
Jan. 21	(N) Joel and Megan Vos		Jud Vos
	(S) Brent and Beth Vander Molen		Seylah Vos
Jan. 28	(N) Kevin and Dawn Plowman	Jan 7	Norma Beerends
	(S) Doug and Brenda Vos		Harlan Beerends
NOTE: If you are unable to greet on your assigned Sunday, please trade with someone for a different week. If you would like to have your name removed from the greeter list, please contact Steve Van Sant.			Jan 14
		Linda Zylstra	
		Hayden Lowry	
		Jan. 21	Emma Plowman
			Candice Vos
			Annabelle Vos
		Jan. 28	Alayna Van Kooten
			Jana Van Zante
			Bailey Vos
			Noelle Van Zante
		<b>If unable to serve in the nursery on your assigned Sunday, please trade with someone on the list.</b>	



# Celebrating...



## And Anniversaries

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- December 2 Judson Vos  
December 3 Randy De Vries  
Lauren Van Wyk  
December 4 Howard Vander Griend (85)  
Donna Arkema  
Adrianna Vos  
December 6 Benjamin Vander Molen  
December 7 Nathan Nikkel  
December 8 Arvin De Nooy  
Erica Van Soelen  
December 9 JoAnn Fynaardt  
Averie Plowman  
December 11 Betty Vander Molen (80)  
December 12 Sharon Fopma  
Bryce Arkema  
December 13 John De Berg  
December 14 Arlyn Van Zante  
December 17 Jan Laverman  
Neva Lanser  
December 18 Jenice Van Rees  
Jessa De Vries  
December 19 Tyson De Vries  
December 20 Erika Van Maanen  
December 21 Lily Fynaardt  
December 22 Roger Bruxvoort  
December 23 Seth Fopma  
Carolyn Vande Voort  
December 25 Ron Beyer  
Candy Van Zante  
December 26 Wayne Ritter  
December 28 Dennis Schut  
December 29 Kelly Vos  
December 30 Aaron Van Wyngarden

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- December 1 Wes & Cindy Laverman  
December 10 Bob & Jan Pothoven  
December 11 Harris & Darlene Vos  
December 14 Gary & Dena Van Wyk  
December 27 Phil & Barb Hoogeveen  
December 29 Randy & Karen Altena  
Jason & Kallie Van Zee



*We sincerely thank our church families for their various acts of thoughtfulness and support in the death of our mother, Joyce Ver Ploeg. A special thanks to Pastor Jeff Knouse for his spiritual love and guidance at the hospital and also throughout the week. We are so thankful for many friends who walked alongside our family and gave us strength and peace.*

*Rick and Carla Fopma*

# Celebrating...



## And Anniversaries

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 2	Betty Schuring Douglas Vos Seyla Vos
January 5	Isaac Vos
January 7	Alenna Jansen
January 8	Charlene Van Maanen Dena Van Wyk (80) Anna Fopma
January 9	Hudson Dunsbergen
January 14	Jana Van Zante
January 15	Brenda Rolffs
January 18	Connor Dunsbergen Ryan Jansen
January 20	Carla Fopma Brenda Van Kooten
January 21	Lynda Slings Clarissa Laverman
January 22	Kim Vos Breckyn Lowry
January 23	Brenda Vos Raeann Fopma
January 24	Ryan Pastoor
January 25	Ron Swank Wesley Laverman Loren Fopma
January 27	Landon Van Zante
January 28	Brent Vander Molen Rachel Nikkel
January 30	Angela Veenstra

### JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

January 2	Alex and Jentri Van Wyngarden
January 5	Scott and Diane Roose
January 9	Brennan and Shelby Veenstra
January 17	Marty and Betty Vander Molen (60)
January 18	Gary and Lynnette Christensen



*Birthdays are a new start, a fresh beginning and a time to pursue new endeavors with new goals. Move forward with confidence and courage. You are a very special person. May today and all of your days be amazing!*



## ONE CENTER MANY PIECES Eastern + Southern Africa

building teams, equipping leadership, empowering families | **November 2023**



PHOTO: God vastly exceeded our expectations of the Through Their Eyes IDEA LAB program. Details below on what God did in the lives of these beautiful women.

---

### Well that's the pits!

We thoughtfully crafted this newsletter, only to insert a picture and come back to everything lost. Well, everything except for the photos and captions. I'll admit, a few tears were involved. After a day of more doctor visits for Megan to try figure out her chronic pain to an overwhelming to-do list to both kids with bronchitis, this was just not it. And sometimes, it's just not it. And that's ok. So this newsletter is taking a shot' left, as they say in South Africa.

Instead of a trying to recreate everything in our tired minds, we are going with the k.i.s.s. method my aunt and middle school English teacher swore by - keep it simple, stupid. ; )

All text stripped away, this is the essence of what we wrote and are thanking God for:

- Mike submitted his PhD with the University of Pretoria! He awaits feedback and hopes to graduate in April 2024. Such a feat. So much learned. The goodness of God is on display in a good city here in South Africa. He's eager to share!
- God blew us away with what he did through the Idea Lab with [TLF](#) 's Potter's House women. Megan can't wait to share when we visit in Dec and Jan! Want a glimpse? [Testimonies of the women](#) can be found at the link.
- Photo club with boarding students at a Christian school wasn't entirely effective. But great lessons learned and potential ways forward together in 2024.
- And yes, we are visiting the US in Dec and early 2024! And we could not be more excited. A dose of home and encouragement is just what we are needing right now.

## So, time to ReConnect!

Getting dates on the calendar for church, school, and other visits is daily increasing our excitement to visit home. The last time Megan and Stella celebrated Christmas with family was 7 years ago - we are overdue! It is a joy to share about our work, but it's also a joy to hear how God is working in your lives and communities. We are looking forward to meaningful connection.

Below are confirmed dates for where we'll be presenting, Sunday church visits in bold.

Dec 4: Ridgewood CRC, NJ gathering

[connecting with supporters]

Dec 11: travel to Iowa

Dec 13: virtual presentation to Resonate staff

Dec 14: Hull Christian School chapel

**Dec 17: AM Immanuel CRC Orange City PM 1st CRC Rock Valley**

Dec 24: **AM Sanborn CRC**

**Dec 31: AM Faith CRC Sioux Center**

Jan 4: Western Christian High School chapel

**Jan 7: AM Covenant CRC Sioux Center PM Hope CRC Hull**

Jan 12: Megan, Nico and Stella return to SA for first day of school!

Jan 14: **AM 1st CRC Hull**

Jan 17: Mike to Central IA

Jan 21: **AM Calvary CRC Pella**

Jan 22 - Feb 8: Mike in Michigan

Feb 9: Mike returns to SA

If you would like to get together or have ideas on how we can meaningfully connect while we are home, please reach out to us on email, WhatsApp, or Facebook. Coffee dates, Bible studies, small groups, youth groups, Sunday school...we are up for it all!

Mike: [mribbens@crcna.org](mailto:mribbens@crcna.org) +27 83 554 2309

Megan: [meganribbens@crcna.org](mailto:meganribbens@crcna.org) +27 69 780 7123

# Giving

We have a \$20,000 shortfall in our current funding. We would love for you to consider joining our giving team. We are really excited for what God is cooking up for 2024! If you feel God leading you to join us in the work we do, you can support our work [HERE](#).

Serving Christ together,  
Mike and Megan



## Prayer Corner

---

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- **South Africa:** While the recent Rugby World Cup win fueled joy and necessary hope, morale is still low as the country struggles with high unemployment, on-going electricity cuts, water shortages, and high rates of gender-based violence. Pray that the church can be a light in the midst of so many ongoing struggles.
- **Work with Women at TLF:** The majority of the women are entering the transition phase, moving out of the shelter and into their futures. Pray for wisdom and courage - it's exciting but scary.
- **2024 Projects:** There are lots of potential projects being explored for 2024. Please pray God grants wisdom and discernment!
- **A Home for the Thekiso's:** We are still praying God helps the Thekiso family find a home! They lost their home due to floods in December '23 and are still awaiting on insurance reimbursement. Currently, the parents and two children are living in our church. Please continue to pray with us that God sorts these issues and re-homes them soon.

- **Ministry Giving:** Due to the recent loss of church support and an increased support raising goal with Megan's position, we are praying for increased financial and prayer supporters for our work. If you'd like to join with a one-time or monthly gift, you can find more information [HERE](#).

**HOME + WORK LIFE**

Nico, Stella, and their friend Thabang had a blast volunteering at [Rise Upliftment](#) youth ministry in Drakensberg during their long school holiday.



We were so grateful Amira could visit in August during part of the kids' school holiday.



Nico and Stella are in the midst of final year exams. I happen to catch Nico at the tail end of an exam one day - seems this one was a winner!



**SPRING BEAUTY :**

Spring is delightful in the Gauteng Province where we live. It is bursting with all shades of purples, magentas, reds, and yellows. While the purple Jacaranda tree is not indigenous to South Africa, it sure shows off on the streets of Johannesburg and Pretoria. These trees create breath-taking canopies and carpets wherever they've taken root.

We only snapped a few shots from the car on our phone this year, but here were some of the breathtaking views the Jacarandas gave us this spring season:



Megan continues to meet periodically with the Potter's House women. They have been such prayer warriors for Megan's health!



South Africa won the Rugby World a few weeks ago, making them 4 time and back to back champions. Such a great vibe and boost of joy for the country!



RESONATE US OFFICE | 1700 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508 | [www.resonateglobalmission.org](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org)

SA CONTACTS | MAILING ADDRESS: 36 Berillium Ave  
Wilro Park, Roodepoort, 1724  
Republic of South Africa

E-MAIL: Mike: [mribbens@crcna.org](mailto:mribbens@crcna.org) Megan: [meganribbens@crcna.org](mailto:meganribbens@crcna.org)

PHONE/WHATSAPP: Mike: +27 83 766 8908 Megan: +27 69 780 7123

Copyright (C) 2010 // All rights reserved.



Fall 2023

Dear *Friends at Sully CRC,*

Greetings in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior! It is our prayer that your fall programming is off to a great start and that the Lord is lighting your path!

### Be In the Light!

This summer, campers focused John 8:12, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Recent statistics released from Fuller Youth Institute share that from 2009-2019 the percentage of teenagers who experienced "persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness" rose from 26.1% to 36.7%. Between 2019-2021, that number grew to 44.2%. Researchers also found that 75% of all anxiety disorders have developed by the age of 21, with the median age of onset anxiety disorders being 11 years old.

Now, more than ever, we need to be shining the Light of Jesus to our youth and young adults!

### Darkness Runs Away!

This summer, we sang a song by Big Daddy Weave called, "Turn on the Light."

*"There's a place in Your heart only You have seen. It's filled with compassion for someone like me. Your love's not afraid of the mess I've been. Help me open the door and let You in.*

*When the light comes, darkness runs away. And only what lives in the light can stay. When the light comes, nothing left to hide. So come out of the darkness and turn on the light.*

*I throw open the door. I fall to my knees. I lay down my pride. No secrets to keep. The light of Your love is shining on me. The goodness of God is setting me free."*

As we watched campers fall on their knees, crying out to God and seeking His light to chase away their darkness, we are reminded of how important it is to be part of God's Ministry that leads, teaches, and loves. To be a place that provides environments, alongside the church, to bring His light to the world! To be a place where kids can invite their friends to hear the message of God's love and light. And to be a place that offers that message of hope to Iowa's Angel Tree kids so they can hear the good news of God's light in their darkness!



Winter Retreat Fun!



Middle School Worship



Grand Camp

## Better Together

The African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child," is true also when it comes to sharing the good news of God's light! Working together, we can help others to turn on the Light of Jesus in their lives and chase the darkness away! We must work together in ministry to bring the good news of God's love, salvation and grace to His children young and old. At Lake View, we daily seek how God is calling us to minister to others, opportunities to serve Him, and to look to the future for what God is calling us to do. We love serving your families and church members. We praise God for all of the ways His churches support Lake View, for His Glory and for His Name!

## Blessed to be a Blessing

As you review your benevolent giving for the year, please pray about partnering with us as we, "Bring the Light of Christ," to His children. Consider how you may help! Make Lake View a part of your holiday offerings or consider a special offering throughout the year. If you are able to bless Lake View through financial giving, we thank you. If you do not have the resources this year to do so, we understand and would ask that you support us through your prayers. Consider doing a volunteer service day at the camp. Most importantly, send us your kids and families!

Come and enjoy God's Light at Lake View and see what He has done to guide our path! The new Impact Lodge is a great place for a church retreat; leadership retreat; or men's, women's, or youth retreats! We have already hosted all of the above for several churches, so let's look at dates for your church!

## "The light of Your love is shining on me"

Ministry is challenging - our churches and world are full of hurting people surrounded by darkness. Together we can meet the challenge. We are praying for all of you and your ministries. Together we can share about Christ's light and love and help others bring that light into their lives. Help bring their darkness to light so "only what lives in the light can stay."

Thank you for all you do to reach God's children, big and small!

In Christ's Love and Service,

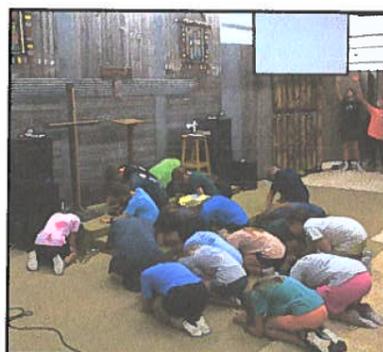
*Diana L. Brummel*

*Thanks again for the many ways, and many years of support for God's ministry at Lake View! We ♥ You!*

Diana L. Brummel  
Executive Director



2023 Staff



Turning on Christ's light with prayer.



Angel Tree Campers with donated quilts.

November 1, 2023

Sully Christian Reformed Church  
PO Box 205  
Sully, IA 50251

Dear Sully Christian Reformed Church,

Welcome to the CSC family. Thank you for offering a part of your income to feed, clothe and care for children thousands of miles away. You are a blessing, and all of us at the Children's Shelter of Cebu thank you.

I am amazed at how God provides. Children who were abandoned, neglected, some even abused, now have a family who loves them. We thank you for reaching out to make that happen on this small island called Cebu, centered amidst the over 7,000 islands that make up the Philippines.

This ministry, of which you are now a part, is much more than an orphanage. It's a home. Some children here have seen their siblings sold, have eaten uncooked rice as their only nourishment, have survived a fire, and one young boy endured the death of his twin brother. Those same children have a chance to laugh, play and go to school now. They know where they're going to sleep, where their next meal will come from, and that they are loved.

Thank you for joining us to love them. Your gift of \$7,197 makes a difference. It makes a world of difference to someone who really needs it. I've included a general brochure for your information. Please contact me with any questions. God bless you.

Serving Him,

*Kirby L. Stoll*  
Kirby Stoll  
President/CEO



Sully Christian Reformed Church

THIS GIFT: 11/1/23  
\$7,197

Children's Shelter of Cebu is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. No goods or services were exchanged for your tax-deductible donation.



*Dear Friends, what an amazing blessing to receive your gift and note. We are extremely blessed that you would join in supporting the ministry work we do in Cebu. We are also honored to have cared for Marlon and so happy for his new family.*  
Kirby

**every** child deserves a family

# HUYSERS

Forming Students  
in the  
Gospel of Grace



Dear friends,

It is about one week before we head to Texas for the holidays. We are returning two weeks earlier than we had intended because of our visa status. When we return to Korea in early January, we hope to have a more permanent visa.

**Korea has begun to feel like home to us.** We have been welcomed so warmly by people both at Grace Christian School and at the church we attend. We have made new friends. Many of the daily patterns of life that seemed so daunting at first have become familiar routines. We have even learned a few simple phrases in Korean!

Our first three months in Korea have been a whirlwind of activity and learning. These are some of the highlights for each of us:

Jeannie:

- Teaching English four days a week to a class of seven first and second graders,
- 
- Designing the curriculum, activities and daily schedule for **Little Lambs, the Grace Christian School kindergarten** that will begin in March,
- 
- Presenting Little Lambs to interested parents at an “open house” event (see photo of “open house” below),
- 
- Teaching a Little Lambs demonstration class.
- 



Joel:

- Speaking at chapel each Monday and co-teaching a class on missions,
  - Working with the Grace teachers to develop and implement a student code of conduct,
  - Clarifying the vision, mission, and values of Grace and developing budgets and job descriptions,
- Promoting Grace at various events, even an interview on Christian radio!

**A couple of weeks ago Joel had the opportunity to preach at two of the Korean language services of the church we attend.** On normal Sundays a church member who is also an English language teacher sits beside us. He simultaneously types on his laptop an English translation of the entire service. By viewing the laptop screen, we can fully participate in the service.

The Sunday Joel preached we tried an interesting experiment. Our translator friend prepared Korean subtitles for Joel's entire sermon. Joel was able to preach in English as he would in a church in the US. The congregation was able to follow the sermon through the Korean subtitles which were projected on the church screens. It seems to have worked very well!

As we celebrate American thanksgiving in the next few days, our hearts continue to be overwhelmed with God's goodness in giving us this place of ministry in our retirement. We are so grateful for your prayers and financial support.

## Praise and Prayer

Praise for:

- The warm welcome we have received in our first three months in Changwon,
  - A successful open house for elementary school and the kindergarten.
- The wonderful Korean donors who are allowing Grace to expand our physical space for the next school year (new school year begins in March in Korea!)

Prayer for:

- Plans to double the enrollment in the elementary school in the new school year and to enroll 15 students in the kindergarten.
- Strategic planning team that we are launching as we prepare to expand into middle school in 2025 and even high school in the future.

## How can you help?

**Most importantly, you can support us in prayer.** This is a major move for us into a culture that is quite different from that of Nicaragua. Pray that we would be gracious learners of culture and language. Pray for our own discipleship as we learn from Korean Christians. Pray for the community of teachers, students, and parents of Grace International School as they live out a gospel of grace in a culture of achievement and performance.

**You can stay informed.** We will be sending out regular prayer letters to keep you informed and to invite your partnership in prayer. (You are on our prayer letter list from our previous time work on the field. If you no longer wish to receive these emails, you can unsubscribe below.)

**You can support us financially.** This work is not possible without a mission-minded community. If you wish to partner with us in ministry, you can send your donation to Resonate Global Mission one of two ways:

1. You can send your gift by mail to either of the addresses below. Clearly designate your gift for our Resonate fund code: 804233

**United States** 1700 28th Street SE Grand Rapids, MI 49508-1407

**Canada** 3475 Mainway PO Box 5070, STN LCD 1 Burlington, ON L7R3Y8

2. Or you can give online at <https://www.resonateglobalmission.org/give-us>. Choose "Missionaries-Asia" and then "Huyser, Joel and Jeannie."





## FALL 2023 Newsletter

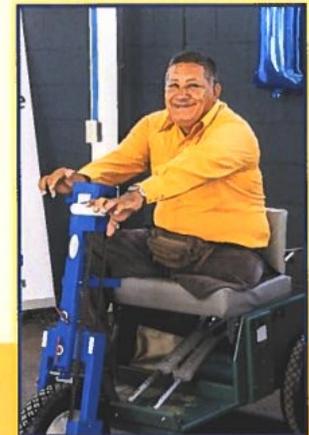


OUR HEARTS ARE GRATEFUL TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE MOBILITY WORLDWIDE MINISTRY IN LEIGHTON. BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY 7000 CARTS WILL HAVE BEEN BUILT BY YEAR END 2023.

### **YOU HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE!**

Awo Ali Adano is an elderly woman who lives in Marsabit. It has been a challenge for her to move from one place to another due to her age. Marsabit Program Director, Kano Daro heard of her plight and gave her a mobility cart. Awo Ali is full of joy because she can now move freely.

Partners for Care-Distributed in Kenya



**Meet our 100,000 recipient:  
Aristides Antonio Mejia a 50-year-old  
resident of Quezaltepeque, El Salvador.**

Mr. Mejia, an individual who has faced extraordinary challenges throughout his life, now has the opportunity to experience newfound freedom and independence, thanks to this incredible milestone. Drafted into the El Salvador Civil War at just 16 years old, Mr. Mejia's life took a tragic turn when he encountered an improvised explosive device (IED) that resulted in the loss of his left leg and severe damage to his right. Despite these traumatic experiences, Mr. Mejia remains a symbol of resilience and determination. He has dedicated himself to being a loving father to his two daughters and a cherished grandfather to four grandchildren, whose ages range from seven to 19 years old. His unwavering strength has served as a beacon of hope and inspiration to countless others. This donation of Mobility Cart #100,000 signifies a life-changing moment for Mr. Mejia. The new mobility cart will not only allow him to move with greater safety and ease but will also empower him to sell his products at the market, providing for himself and his family. The cart represents a vital tool for Mr. Mejia to regain his independence and continue to be a loving and responsible family member, enriching the lives of those around him. We are proud to be a part of this transformative journey and are deeply grateful for the opportunity to contribute to Mr. Mejia's well-being and future. Mobility Worldwide remains committed to improving the lives of individuals like Mr. Mejia, supporting their dreams and aspirations, and ensuring that they have the means to pursue their goals and provide for their families.

*Since 1994, 100,000 Mobility Carts have been built by hundreds of volunteers at 31 Affiliate workshops and distributed in 106 countries with the help of over 70 distribution partners.*

*May our lives always be full of thanks & giving!*



**Pak Nyoman is 38 years old. He lives in the village of Pejarakan, in North West Bali. 15 years ago Nyoman, at the young age of just 23, was severely injured in a work related accident. While using an electric grinder to cut through concrete, he cut into a hidden high voltage electric cable and was electrocuted. Fortunately, the quick thinking of his work colleagues saved his life. However, his feet, and legs were so severely injured, he was bedridden for several months, & has been unable to walk since the accident. He is cared for by his elderly mother. Due to his dire economic circumstances, he has never seen a doctor about his injuries, or been able to afford any mobility aids that would help him. As a result, he has not been out from his home in 15 years.**

**October 23, 2023.**



**On information received, the Global Village team were very pleased to visit Nyoman, and to provide him a hand-powered 'Mobility Worldwide' Mobility Cart to help him become more independent and mobile.**

**As you can see in the photo Nyoman was very happy. After 15 years help had finally arrived!!!!**

**For more information about our ministry contact:**

**Pete Verhey    Larry Geetings  
641-204-1972    641-780-1274**

**email: [info@petia.org](mailto:info@petia.org)**

**Visit us on the web at [mobilityia.org](http://mobilityia.org)**

**501(c) 3 non profit -Tax #45-1837281**

**The Mobility Worldwide Annual Conference was hosted by the Leighton Affiliate and held at the Cornerstone Church in Pella on September 28 - 30, 2023. Representatives from affiliates in MO, KS, MN, MI, FL, TX, AL, GA, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Zambia were in attendance along with representatives from our IA affiliate. We learned new ideas for cart production and information on the functions of Mobility Worldwide on the National level. We were blessed to host this event which was sponsored and funded by National and are grateful to have been assisted by volunteers who helped with set up, provided snacks for attendees and conducted the shop tours.**

**The conference opened our eyes to how broad the Mobility Worldwide organization is and the great impact the mobility carts are making. We heard success stories from representatives of international affiliates in Africa and compelling stories and inspiring videos from our Partners around the world. Learning from various Ministries by listening to testimonies and mingling with representatives from Partners for Care in Kenya, the Medical Loan Closet in Kansas, the Bright Start Learning program of Cambodia, Many Hands for Haiti, and Aztec Ministries Mexico was an amazing experience. Videos were also shown by Brother's Brother Foundation, Medshare, DR Congo, and Partners for Care. The common theme from all was how important it is to keep building carts and how God uses the carts to enrich people's lives and give them hope.**

**They inspired us to keep working to give mobility to those who desperately need it and share the love of Jesus through the gift of a cart.**

**From the Board of Mobility Worldwide IA-Leighton**



**Thank you for your continuous support of donations and prayers for Mobility Worldwide IA- Leighton.**

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_**

**ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_**

**CITY, ST, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Employer matching gift: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Make check payable to Mobility Worldwide IA-Leighton and mail to:**

**Pete Verhey 100 Kirkwood Pella IA 50219**



● Rectangular Snip

Dear friends,

In mid-October Jeanine hosted a group of students from the University of Denver for a volunteer session at our garden located at the District 4 Police Station, and this is her reflection about that day as the group worked the ground:

“Together we spread out the last layer of mulch across the plot where we’ve been making soil. On this particularly windy day, the dust particles flew about and made the works not so pleasant. I overheard a couple of students say this was not what they thought they would be doing. I inquired about what they were expecting. ‘Harvesting and planting,’ was the answer. I shared that they were helping us finish the foundational work for a new garden. Together, we were making a new thing.

“That conversation simmered a while and I reflected on the experience of the makers, specifically those who lay the foundation for a new thing. I wondered about those who join to plant. I thought about the experience of those harvesting something that was planted long before. Although we are 12 years old as an organization, we have the benefit of working in each of these phases.”

True to Jeanine’s reflection, we continue to tend to the foundation of our work and expand it. We continue to plant new ideas. And we celebrate the harvest of the things planted that now bear fruit.



Today we celebrate and facilitate community. The above word cloud represents feedback from our guests at Cromptoberfest, our annual harvest party. When asked what word represents our work, this is what showed up most prominently. We’re celebrating meaningful impact.

Today we celebrate and share **nourishment**. We celebrate that the 6,000 pounds of food and flowers we grew this year, this act of gardening offers restoration and hope and awe. The food that is cooked and prepared is vibrant, healthy, and beautiful.

Rectangular Snip

Today we celebrate and offer **grace**. The dreams we're realizing elicit a sense of awe in our community that allow us to tell a greater story, the one at the foundation of our work. The story of God's grace realized, given, and shared. This story is celebrated every day in our work and every Sunday evening as we gather to Feast together around The Table.

And so, we once again humbly ask you to partner with us in our work. **Our unique, and sometimes wild food forest-y vision continues to depend on the generosity and investment of people like you, who see the fruit with us.**

Here are the various ways that you can support The Table – any and every level of support is helpful:

**Mail your support** using the enclosed envelope to:

The Table  
PO Box 103370  
Denver, CO 80250

Make a **one-time** or **set up a recurring donation** online at our website:  
[www.denvertable.org/donate](http://www.denvertable.org/donate)

**Thank you SO MUCH for your support.** You encourage us and motivate us more than we can express. You provide the ongoing support for fruit to grow. Thank you for all the ways you respond to God's invitation to make a kingdom investment.

Your partner in Christ,  
Craig  
On behalf of the entire Table Community  
Check out our latest video: <https://vimeo.com/denverthetable/2023>

PS. We love hearing from you! Feel free to email, call or text: [craig.broek@gmail.com](mailto:craig.broek@gmail.com)  
Cell: 720-465-4421

PPS. If you're in the Denver metro area (permanently or for a visit) and want to volunteer with us, please give us a shout! We always have needs for handy volunteers, especially folks that are available on a regular basis!



# Table Talk

Official Newsletter of The Table

## Table Time Prayers

- Thank God for the great community, staff, interns and volunteers!
- Pray for the ongoing provision for our unique ministry.
- Thank God for the new ministry opportunities we've had at the Table Public House.
- Pray for the new micro community for the homeless in our neighborhood.

OUR HOME ADDRESS:  
1812 S. Lincoln St.  
Denver, CO 80210



THE TABLE MAILING ADDRESS  
PO Box 103370  
Denver, CO 80250

## Finding Sanctuary at The Table

On a recent rainy Wednesday, two people wandered in, dripping wet, shoes on their feet as well as pair of soaked boots in a cardboard box. They wondered if they could sit and warm up for a bit, and eventually the soaked boots found a resting spot on the sofa. Eventually, they asked if we had a microwave to heat up the burritos they pulled out of their drowned backpacks. They found sanctuary for a few moments in our space.

Every Tuesday morning, they come rolling in around 9:30 AM. Principled folks who want to make the world and the city of Denver a better place through political advocacy. They drink coffee and lattes, nosh on pastries, talk to political candidates, and strategize how to get out the vote. On one recent Tuesday, one of them pulled me aside and said how much he appreciated what we were doing. In his words, "it's what all of us Christians should be doing." They find sanctuary every week in our space.

On Wednesdays the moms bring their kids to sing and dance with Bradley, our musician. On Sunday mornings a group of writers meets while, simultaneously, a brand new church plant meets in the back room and our own worshiping community meets later in the day in the same space.

In Matthew 13, Jesus tells his listeners that the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that, when it grows, it becomes a place where birds build nests. The Greek indicates that these birds are sort of unwanted nuisances, but they are the ones that the kingdom of God attracts.

As we consider all the "birds" that find sanctuary at the Table, we admit that we aren't aware of all their stories and histories. But we do know that the Kingdom of Heaven is breaking out in a unique way, and we thank God for the opportunities we have to share tangible grace with all who find sanctuary here.

## A Farmer Walks into a Police Station...

Late last spring Jeanine plucked up the courage to go to the cops. She had driven past Denver's Police District 4 a few times and the unused space seemed to call out to her. Finally, she decided to walk in and ask if they would consider partnering with the Table by allowing us to plant a garden. The police commander indicated they would have to inquire with HQ, but they would let us know. Within a week Jeanine received an affirmative response, and the commander said they had never seen anything go up and down the chain of command so quickly. With the help of several sponsoring businesses and volunteers (Johns Manville and HDR Inc. University of Denver), the ground was converted this summer from an abandoned lot into a new garden space awaiting its first planting next spring.



## Discerning the Future

Sometimes a series of events and circumstances causes an opportunity to wonder what God might be saying and how best to respond to that message. We've sensed that this is a season of discernment due to a number of significant events seemingly converging at once:

\*Denver's new mayor launched an initiative to house 1,000 people of the homeless population before the end of the year. The first planned micro community is under construction 5 blocks away from the Table and it will house over 100 currently homeless people. We're discerning how we, the only non-profit ministry in the neighborhood, might adapt to meet the needs and desires of these new neighbors.

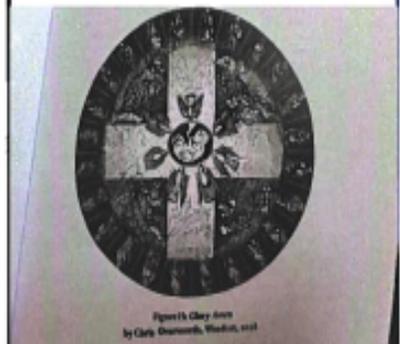
\*Our first 5-year lease at the Table ends in 11 months and we're discerning how to approach that reality.

\*Our current landlords have indicated an interest in selling the building we currently lease for \$2.5 million. We're discerning if it's an opportunity to grow. To help discern, we've met intentionally with 6 trusted and prayerful folks over the last 3 months. Together we've laid out our best understanding to date of God's call and will for the Table, and together we're listening, discussing, and praying for God's continued leading. We invite you to join us in support wherever you are, trusting in God's faithfulness and generosity!



## Sunday Feast: Imaging the Story

This year our Sunday worshipping community has made use of the work of Gill Sakakini and Karen Case-Green's book Imaging the Story. The book connects Scripture to works of sacred art, and invites the creation of our own art along the way. While not everyone's favorite part of our time together, the community's creativity has been an inspiring way to engage the message of God. As we enter the season of advent, we're looking forward to the new old story of the incarnation and making use of The Lives We Actually Have, a book written by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. In addition, we'll be hosting a Christmas carol singalong on Sunday, Dec. 10. If you're in the area, join us at 5 PM that evening!



Dear Boys in the Service:

We are sending you the last issue of the Chimes for the year. One more month and we will have to write 1953. Where has 1952 gone and what have we accomplished? Has it been a year of spiritual progress?

Five boys have left for the armed services this month. Our service flag is sure filling up. We hope that it won't be too long and we can be adding some discharge emblems. How we wish all of you boys could be back with us.

You will notice we have three new girls on the committee to do the mimeographing of the Chimes. We want to thank Grace, Harriet and Adrianna for the work they have done and for their faithfulness in always having had the mimeographing done for us whenever we were ready for them.

This copy of the Chimes may reach you before Thanksgiving. May we at home as well as you boys away from home show a true thanksgiving spirit. God in His great mercy has again blessed us with a wonderful rain, the first since September 1. May our thanks not only be lip worship, but may it be living a life of gratitude.

In this month we are also to celebrate the birth of our Blessed Savior. The show windows and counters of the stores are already displaying the Christmas gifts. Each one is trying to make their goods as attractive as possible. May we, who know Jesus as our personal Savior show to those round about us what He is and means to us and may we display a true Christmas spirit in this Christmas season. I would like to close with this poem.

### True Christmas

We won't have a Christmas this year, you say,  
For now the children have all gone away;  
And the house is so lonely, so quiet and bare,  
We couldn't have a Christmas that they didn't share.  
We won't have a Christmas this year, you sigh  
For Christmas means things that money must buy;  
Misfortune and illness have robbed us, we fear,  
Of the things that we'd need to make Christmas this year.  
We won't have a Christmas this year, you weep,  
For a loved one is gone, and our grief is too deep;  
It will be a long time before our hearts heal,  
And the spirit of Christmas again we can feel.  
But if you lose Christmas when troubles befall,  
You never have really had Christmas at all;  
For once you have had it, it cannot depart,  
When you learn that true Christmas means Christ in your heart.

We leave you in the care of our heavenly Father.

Typists:  
Miss Mary Lou Zylstra  
Miss Revena Zylstra  
Mrs. William Nikkel

The Committee:  
Miss Doris Jansen  
Miss Erma Vos  
Miss Bertha Zylstra

Mrs. Reink Zylstra  
Mrs. John H. Jansen  
Mrs. Dick Vos  
Mrs. Lou Van Wyk

Bernard Van Zante, in Greenland, writes...

I was quite relieved when I had my last chimes letter written, Thinking that it would be quite a while before I had to write my next one. I was quite shocked as I looked at the calendar today to find it was so close to the fifteenth. I agree with Rev. Geels when he said it was nice to know what day the Chimes will be typed so we can wait until the last minutes to write our letters.

We have been having some rather rainy weather lately. This morning I saw the first snow since I came here. There is quite a layer up on the mountains. I think it will suit everyone here just fine if it stays up there. We can certainly feel winter coming on as it gets quite cold out at night. Last week it froze ice several nights. The nights are getting a lot longer now. It gets dark around 8:30 and doesn't get light till around 4:30 in the morning.



Our working hours are quite a bit shorter also since the last time I wrote. Since we got more men in we started working eight hour shifts. At present I'm working, or maybe I should say, I'm at the hanger from four in the afternoon till midnight. Most of the time is spent around the coffee table, unless a plane happens to come in. Next week I'll start working at eight in the morning and will work until four in the afternoon. I'll work that shift for two weeks.

We had quite a scare Friday night. Our C-47 plane which we had received just the week before went for its first flight to a base in Southern Greenland Friday morning. It was around eight pm Friday night when we received the call that they had lost all contact with that plane and the last they heard of it were distress signals. Air Sea Rescue planes were alerted to start search in the morning. On Saturday morning they found the plane on the Southwestern part of Greenland. It had landed on an Eskimo cemetery. We haven't heard yet how badly the plane was damaged. The crew members are all alright. They were picked up Sunday morning by a Danish plane and will be returned to this base as soon as weather permits.

Our food here is pretty good although I haven't heard anyone brag about the powdered milk we get. That problem should be solved soon though, for we are getting a mechanical cow here. Just what kind of an animal that will be, I don't know, but from the looks of the building that it has to go in it must be quite large. It sounds pretty good, but if I were you farmers I wouldn't get rid of your dairy cows just yet. I think it will be pretty hard to beat fresh milk.

Last week our chaplain arrived here. He is a Catholic Chaplain, and is also conducting the protestant services. I can't comment on him too much since I have heard him just once.

Last week we were given our artic clothing for the winter. From the looks of it all we shouldn't have to suffer much cold this winter. The weather forecasters are predicting weather down to fifty below this winter.

Well, it is almost time to go to work, so until next month I'll say goodbye and may God bless you all.

Bernard Eldon

**SULLY CHRISTIAN  
REFORMED CHURCH**

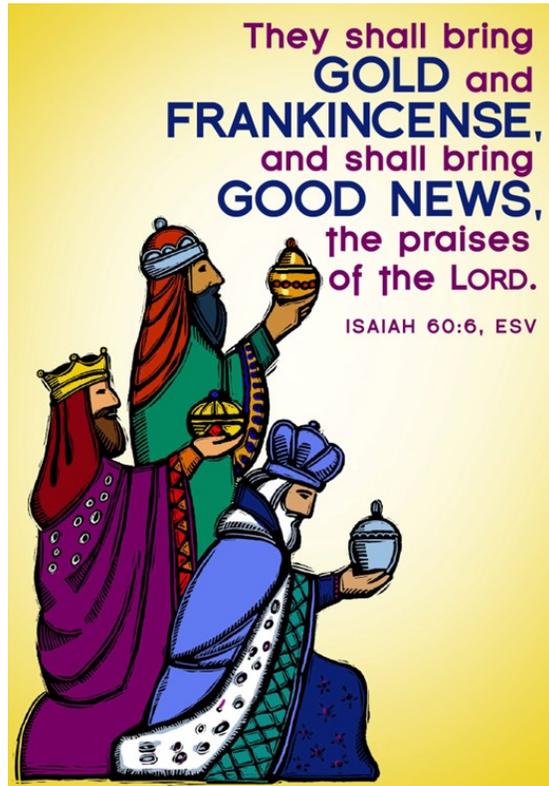
103 9th Ave, PO Box 205  
Sully, IA 50251

Phone: 641-594-3491  
E-mail: [sullycrc@netins.net](mailto:sullycrc@netins.net)

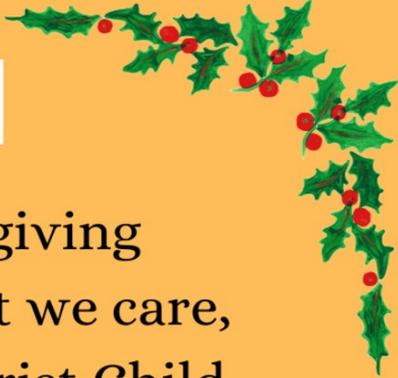
---

SEE US ON THE WEB  
[SULLYCRC.ORG](http://SULLYCRC.ORG)

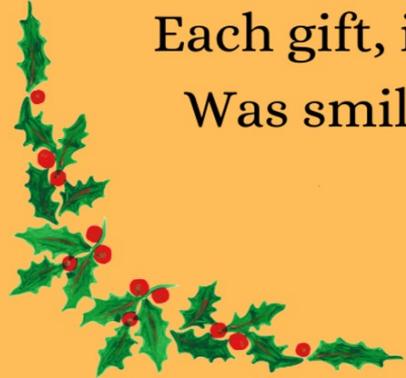
---



Parade



Christmas is for giving  
And for showing that we care,  
For honoring the Christ Child  
With the loving gifts we share.  
The wise men gave of riches;  
The shepherds, faith and love.  
Each gift, in its own measure,  
Was smiled on from above.



– Iris W. Bray

