



Fellowship Findings

Sully Christian Reformed Church

July 2024
Vol. 42, No 7

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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*

July Worship

July 7

AM—Scott Roose

PM—Community Worship—Mr. Dan Van Kooten

July 14

AM—Mr. Scott Roose

PM—Small Group Discussion

July 21

AM—Mr. Brandon Mick

PM—Mr. Royce Spoelstra

July 28

AM—Pastor Tom Vos

PM—Small Group Discussion



Worship TIMES

Morning Worship
9:30 a.m.

Evening Worship
6:00 p.m.

Dates of Interest:

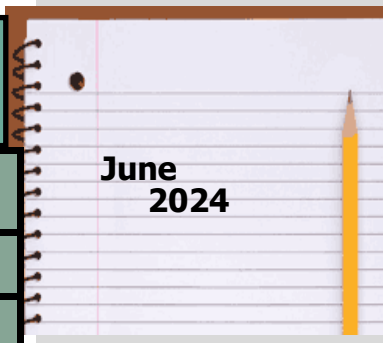
July 7... Community Worship
..... Sully City Park
July 8-12 VBS
July 8.... Bethel Mission Min.
.....Share Your Faith
July 15..... Elder's Meeting

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.SULLYCRC.ORG

GREETERS

July 7	(N) Rick & Carla Fopma
	(S) Randy & Karen Altena
July 14	(N) Wayne & Nora Ritter
	(S) Brent & Brenda Rolffs
July 21	(N) John & Jodi De Berg
	(S) Harris & Darlene Vos
July 28	(N) Bob & Marilyn VanSoelen
	(S) Bryce & Donna Arkema
August 4	(N) Zeke VLeest/Ben VMolen
	(S) Tyler, Derek, Emily VS
August 11	(N) Kyle & Kendra VanKooten
	(S) Wes & Heather Zylstra
August 18	(N) Alvin & Mary Fopma
	(S) Brennan & Shelby Veenstra
August 25	(N) Scotty & Brenda De Nooy
	(S) Daryl & Linda Menninga

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.



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.

Chairman Dale Van Wyk opened the meeting with devotions and prayer. The needs of many in the church and community were lifted in prayer.

Financial information and reports were reviewed. The general fund balance is at about \$125,000 with an additional \$100,000 in an 11 month CD.

Plans for family visiting in August were reviewed.

The council approved a proposal to upgrade the church video system with laser projectors and a congregational meeting was scheduled for June 30 to bring this proposal to the congregation for a vote.

An adjustment to pulpit supply was made to align with a recent recommendation from Classis Central Plains.

Committee members, including council liaisons and committee chairs, were reviewed.

The campaign team has been reaching out to members of the congregation for funding of the approved parsonage relocation.

Roger Zylstra closed in prayer following the singing of "Make Me a Servant."

Bethel Mission Ministry

Monday, July 8—Share Your Faith



"Thank you" to our church family and friends for the words of sympathy and cards in respect of our sister-in-law Jan VanSoelen (Marion) of Sioux Center and our sister Martha (VanSoelen) Weg of Mitchell SD.

Pete and family, Frank and family,
Bob and family

BUDGET REPORT



April Report			
Category	Amount	Year to Date Received	Year to Date Budgeted
General Fund (includes Ministry Share)	\$44,103.45	\$44,103.45	\$33,284.33
Missions	\$ 2,103.32	\$ 2,103.32	\$ 2,166.67
Building and Grounds	\$ 2,358.23	\$ 2,358.23	\$ 2,500.00
Total	\$48,565.00	\$48,565.00	\$37,951.00

Offerings Received		
Date	Recipient	Amount
June 2	Resonate Global Missions	\$2,981.05
June 9	Sully Christian School	\$1,632.00
June 16	The Gideons	\$1,346.00
June 23	Benevolence	\$1,815.00
June 30	Christian Education Encouragement Fund	\$1,813.55

July Offering Schedule

July 7 AM—Rehoboth PM—Ministerial Association
 July 14 Sully Christian School
 July 21 Wycliffe Bible Translators
 July 28 Christian Education Encouragement Fund

Coffee Servers		Nursery	
July 7	Rick & Staci Jansen	July 7	Brenda Vos
	Alex & Jentri Van Wyngarden		Aspen Kramer
July 14	Lauren & Julie Van Wyk	July 14	Laura Fynaardt
	Dale & Julie Van Wyk		Alicia Fynaardt
July 21	Eric & Laura Fynaardt	July 21	Angela Veenstra
	Dennis & Staci Schut		Chloe Vos
July 28	Kevin & June Veenstra	July 28	Melanie Van Maanen
	Loren Vander Wilt/Paul Scott		Erika Van Maanen
August 4	Scott & Vicki Nikkel	August 4	Judson & Pam Vos
	Nolan & Karla Vos		Aaron Van Wyngarden
August 11	Rick & Kim Vos	August 11	Candice Vos
	Jaron & Tasha Vos		Adri Vos
August 18	Randy & Jodi De Vries	August 18	Linda Menninga
	Jason & Jen Lowry		Abbie De Berg
August 25	Kevin & Brenda Van Kooten	August 25	Jentri Van Wyngarden
	Nathan & Rachel Nikkel		Ada Van Wyngarden
<p>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.</p>		<p>If unable to serve in the nursery on your assigned Sunday, please trade with someone on the list.</p>	

We are so thankful for those who serve so willingly...

"I always thank my God for you..." — [1 Corinthians 1:4](#)

Celebrating...



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- July 3 Kason Vos
- July 4 Karen Altena
- July 5 Melvin Lanser
Rebecca Jochems
Jerri Nikkel
- July 8 Annabelle Vos
- July 9 Lily Vander Leest
- July 10 Dawn Plowman
Landon Van Wyk
- July 11 Mike Vander Molen
- July 13 Lucille Jansen
Kevin Van Maanen
- July 14 Elly Van Zee
- July 16 Larissa Pleima
- July 18 Sheila Pleima
- July 19 Olivia Ritter
Randall Jansen
- July 20 Brenda Fopma
Alayna Van Kooten
Trevor Veenstra
Aiden Fynaardt
- July 21 Karen Van Soelen
- July 25 Keith Struik
- July 26 Berdena Vos (94)
- July 29 Aiden Vander Leest
- July 31 Nancy Swank
Bowen Lowry

And Anniversaries

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- July 3 Roger and Caroll Jansen (25)
- July 7 Larry and Sharon Van Wyk
- July 9 Jaden and Kelly Vos
- July 12 Eric and Laura Fynaardt
- July 14 Rick and Kim Vos (35)
- July 19 Wesley and Heather Zylstra
- July 25 Bryce and Donna Arkema

FREEDOM....

As American Christians, "Freedom" has multiple meanings for us.

**As Christians, we celebrate our freedom in Christ— *John 8:36*
*"So if the Son sets you free, you will be FREE indeed."***

**As Americans, we thank God for the Freedom we enjoy in our land!
And we celebrate that this month.**

***Let's celebrate our
FREEDOM
Every Day!***

Celebrating...



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 1	Myrna Goodyk Sandy Van Zee
August 2	Philip Hoogeveen
August 5	Sheryl Cooling
August 6	Robert Van Soelen Kendra Pothoven
August 7	Judith Van Zee
August 8	Curtis Vos Brooke Dunsbergen
August 14	Eric Fynaardt
August 16	Shawn Vande Voort
August 17	Josiah Vos
August 18	Wes Van Wyk
August 21	Jentri Van Wyngarden
August 23	Harris Vos
August 24	Rindy Vander Schel Michelle Van Kooten Xavier Nikkel
August 25	Jerri Jansen Missy Laverman
August 26	Stuart Pleima
August 28	Miles Goodyk Addison Van Haaften
August 29	Emmett Kramer
August 30	Kara Van Wyk Emmalea Jo Van Haaften Sawyer Dunsbergen
August 31	Gary Van Wyk (85) Diane Roose Atticus Vos Lydia Vos

And Anniversaries

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

August 3	Verlan & Sally Van Wyk (45)
August 5	Keith & Darlene Struik
August 10	Austin and Sharayah Van Kooten
August 14	Roger & Carolyn Zylstra
August 17	Steve & Sharon Fopma (40)
August 19	Melvin & Marilyn Jansen Dan & Sharla Dunsbergen
August 22	Dwight & Glenda Vander Leest Eldon & Brenda Nikkel
August 23	Arlyn & Barbara Van Zante
August 27	Nolan & Karla Vos Zach & Brooke Dunsbergen
August 30	Curt and Candice Vos



Dear Church Members,

All of us at the Pregnancy Center of Central Iowa are so very grateful for your special gift to us! We know it was given in love, and our goal is to pass that love on to our clients.

We are feeling so blessed by your generosity. We pray that God blesses each of you, as well!

In God's love,
Rita Baker



A Note from the General Secretary Following Synod

Synod 2024 concluded its annual deliberations last week Thursday with an encouragement from its president, Rev. Derek Buikema, to be gentle in the coming days, weeks, and months. In Ephesians 4:2 (and many other places), Paul exhorts believers to *“be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with each other in love.”* I would like to take a moment to reflect pastorally on what that might mean.

Synod is the broadest assembly of ecclesiastical governance for the Christian Reformed Church. Local church councils delegate authority to regional classes to make decisions for a geographic group of churches. Classes delegate authority to synod to make decisions for all the classes and churches in the denomination. Each of these assemblies involves a deliberative process with prayer, worship, discussion, and discernment from the men and women involved.

Synod 2024 stood on the shoulders of the previous two synods. Synod 2022 declared that the CRC’s prohibition on same-sex sex (in addition to adultery, pornography, and other sexual sins) to be an interpretation of Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 108, and therefore to have the status of confessional teaching. At the same time, Synod 2022 encouraged the churches to be places of welcome, grace, and hospitality for LGBTQ+ people who face temptations just as heterosexual people. Although it received many objections and requests to revise its confessional teaching on sexuality, Synod 2023 upheld the position and instructed churches to adhere to it. Now Synod 2024 has clarified procedures for office bearers who may wrestle with this understanding, with a commitment to help guide them in their discernment and their ability to serve in church office. Synod 2024 also clarified procedures and expectations for churches that have expressed disagreement with the positions of the denomination; giving them an opportunity to come into alignment, or providing a pathway for disaffiliation if their convictions are settled.

Synod 2024’s decisions have broad-reaching consequences for our denomination. As we move forward, we recognize that feelings and emotions about these decisions are high. Discipline, and the possibility of disaffiliation, feel scary. For those who now find themselves under church discipline, we know that synod’s decisions are causing pain. We hurt because part of our body is hurting. We also know that some will choose to leave our denomination, and that hurts us all. Yet, we pray that the clarity that has been established will help us move forward.

In the spirit of Ephesians 4:2, I urge us to choose gentleness. Buikema reminded us that “gentleness is strong. The good fight in which we engage is not a fight against other churches, or peoples, or denominations...no person here is the enemy of another person here.” Instead, we are all part of the same fight against the devil and his powers in the world. For that fight, gentleness with each other is necessary.

Lord willing, by the end of July or the beginning of August, the Office of General Secretary will publish an informative Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document that will respond to questions that you, your congregation, or classis may have regarding the decisions of Synod 2024. If you have questions that you’d like us to address, please use **this form**. In the meantime, please join me in prayer for gentleness and wisdom as we entrust our future to a God who is faithful.

Finally, please note that synod made several other important decisions in the past week unrelated to human sexuality. We adopted a Global Vision report that pointed us toward an exciting future of relationships with Reformed congregations around the world, heard wonderful testimonies from our growing Korean and Hispanic congregations, approved 25 new candidates for ministry, and celebrated plans to plant 33 new churches in the coming year. We are grateful for what God is doing despite our human struggles and divisions. We pray that he will continue to endow us with gentleness for all as we step into the future.

Rev. Dr. Zachary King
General Secretary

Writing Appreciation Messages to your Church Family

Does the following scenario sound familiar?

[A new person comes to your church](#), encounters God's love for the first time, and joins a Bible study. Suddenly, everyone in your community is heavily invested in this new person. They feel loved, appreciated, and valued. They begin to serve in your church's children's ministry, tithe, and lead a small group study.

But as time goes on, the now-church member begins to receive fewer explicit words of encouragement and thanks. He or she is still loved, valued, and appreciated, but there isn't a system set up to communicate this truth.

That's where appreciation messages come in.

Expressing sincere gratitude through appreciation messages for the support of church members is not merely a pleasant gesture; it's a reflection of the love of God working through your church community. Whether it's a simple thank you card for tithing or a thoughtful note to acknowledge the work of a volunteer, these messages reinforce the single important truth that every person is loved and seen!

What is a Church Appreciation Message?

A church appreciation message is a personalized thank you letter that conveys heartfelt thanks to individuals for their commitment and service to the church community. It's a tangible expression of gratitude for their financial support, involvement in church events, and dedication to the congregation.

How to Craft a Church Appreciation Message

Running a church is hard work, and many church leaders and administrators don't have a ton of extra time to spend on writing the perfect thank-you message.

Thankfully, with the right tips on how to (and how not to) write an effective note to your members, donors, and volunteers, you can write a great appreciation message...even if you're not a natural-born writer.

Five Tips for Writing a Great Church Appreciation Message

- 1. Be Personal and Specific:** Tailor your message to the individual or group, mentioning specific contributions or qualities that make their involvement special. If you're writing a message to volunteers, this could be as simple as saying "Thank you for all the time and hard work you generously give to our church family. Without you, we would not be able to accomplish our mission of caring for others with the love and compassion of Jesus!"

Express Sincerity: Let your genuine gratitude shine through your words. Avoid generic phrases that could apply to anyone. Adding an extra note on how their time, service, and financial contributions make a specific impact can be a great way to do this. For example, you could say, “Your financial donation of \$X helped us renovate our nursery and care better for our littlest church members.”

Include Biblical References: If appropriate, weave in scripture that resonates with the act of giving or serving, reinforcing the spiritual significance of their contributions. One excellent scripture on the power of giving is in the book of Acts: "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" (Acts 20:35)

Keep it Positive: Focus on the positive impact of their involvement. Even if there are areas for improvement, an appreciation message is not the place to mention these. *Do* mention their loyal commitment to a specific ministry. *Don't* mention their habitual tardiness to team meetings!

End on a Hopeful Note: Conclude your message with blessings, prayers, or a hope-filled scripture. If relevant, include a personal note about the recipient.

What NOT To Say in a Church Appreciation Message

Here are a few things to avoid in a church appreciation message.

- **Avoid Comparisons:** Don't compare the contributions of one member to another. Appreciation should feel inclusive, not competitive.
- **Skip the Clichés:** Steer clear of overused phrases that can dilute the sincerity of your message.
- **Don't Mix Messages:** Keep your appreciation message focused on gratitude. It's not the time to ask for more donations or help.
- **Avoid Negativity:** Even if there have been challenges, an appreciation message should highlight positive contributions, not dwell on past issues.

Let's Be the Church!

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REFORMED CHURCH**

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Flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. (2 Tim. 2:22)

The air war over Bosnia in the late 1990s made Scott O'Grady famous. For days, the downed American flier had evaded capture in enemy territory.

When the rescue helicopter finally landed in the clearing near where O'Grady was hiding, he didn't hesitate. He shook off his fatigue, prepared his weapons, split the bushes, and with all the strength he could muster, ran to his rescue.

His actions parallel those of believers who engage in the spiritual warfare of this world. We should not assume that, because God promises to provide a way out of temptation, we can just relax with nothing to do. God expects us to use every weapon of his provision to fight our spiritual opposition and claim the rescue he promises.

As long as you're in this world, you are spiritually in enemy territory. So, run to the rescue God provides by diligently employing every resource of Scripture, prayer, godly counsel, and spiritual resolve that is yours by Christ's grace!

Prayer: *Lord, I know that I live in enemy territory and face many temptations. Please help me not to use the promises of your mercy to be lax about sin's threats. Instead, help me use the spiritual resources graciously provided for my rescue!*

Unlimited Grace by Bryan Chapell