



Fellowship Findings

Sully Christian Reformed Church

October 2024
Vol. 42, No 10

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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 *1 Corinthians 10:31* and edify others. *1 Thessalonians 5:11*



Worship TIMES

Morning Worship
9:30 a.m.

Evening Worship
6:00 p.m.

October Worship

October 6	AM—Pastor Darren PM—Pastor Darren
October 13	AM—Pastor Darren PM—Mr. Brandon Mick
October 20	AM—Pastor Darren PM—Scott Roose
October 27	AM—Pastor Darren PM—Pastor Darren

Dates of Interest:

October 2..... Start-Up of:
..... GEMS
..... Cadets
.....Share Your Faith

GREETERS



To our church family-
 Thank you so much for supporting our family these past couple of months. Whether it be praying for us, dropping off meals, or monetary. Your prayers have meant the world to us and we sure did feel them. Hudson does have a road up ahead of him so we thank you for your continued prayers for our little boy! We truly feel so blessed to be a part of this church and our congregation has some of the kindest people in it!

God is good all the time!

-Zach and Brooke Dunsbergen

Hudson, Barrett, and Sawyer

We would like to thank all for your prayers, help, and concern when Melvin passed out at the Rededication services. We are so thankful that there are no severe after-effects.

Melvin & Marilyn Jansen

Our family would like to thank the congregation for all their support and prayers in our loss of Ed's sister Cornelia Jansen. We appreciated hearing from Elder Nolan and Pastor Darren and were grateful for the many cards and words of sympathy. It is a blessing to be part of a caring community that loves and cares for its members when they are grieving.

Ed & Judy Van Kooten & Family

October 6	(N) Mike VM and Val Nikkel
	(S) Harlan & Norma Beerends
October 13	(N) Kevin & June Veenstra
	(S) Glenn & Navonne Shultz
October 20	(N) Zach & Brooke Dunsbergen
	(S) Carroll & Marla Fopma
October 27	(N) Rick & Staci Jansen
	(S) Paul Scott & Loren Vd. Wilt
November 3	(N) Randy & Jodi De Vries
	(S) Roger & Marlene Bruxvoort
November 10	(N) Frank & Karen Van Soelen
	(S) Rick & Kim Vos
November 17	(N) Howard & Marilyn Vd Griend
	(S) Jason & Jen Lowry
November 24	(N) Jaron & Tasha Vos
	(S) Dwight & Glenda Vd. Leest

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.

We would like to thank our church family for your kind expressions of sympathy, love, and support in the loss of our mother. Your prayers have given us comfort and peace during this difficult time.

Scott and Diane and Family

BUDGET REPORT



September Report			
Category	Amount	Year to Date Received	Year to Date Budgeted
General Fund (includes Ministry Share)	\$35,798.32	\$124,490.91	\$ 141,137.32
Missions	\$ 2,714.69	\$ 8,881.49	\$ 8,666.68
Building and Grounds	\$ 2,902.26	\$ 9,557.82	\$ 10,000.00
Total	\$41,415.27	\$142,930.22	\$159,804.00

Offerings Received		
Date	Recipient	Amount
September 1	Sully Christian School	\$2,319.00
September 8	World Renew	\$2,400.00
September 15	Benevolence	\$1,516.00
September 22	Christian Education Encouragement Fund	\$1,499.00
September 29	Amy Hogeveen and Joel Huyser	\$3,624.00

Offering Schedule

- October 6 Sully Christian School with Envelope Offering
- October 13 Central Iowa Teens Encounter Christ (CITEC)
- October 20 Christian Education Encouragement Fund
- October 27 Seminary Offering

Coffee Servers		Nursery	
October 6	Rick & Carla Fopma	October 6	Shawna Fopma
	Kevin & Dawn Plowman		Gwen Zylstra
October 13	Joel & Megan Vos	October 13	Jacie Kramer
	Brent & Beth Vander Molen		Conrad Kramer
October 20	John & Jodi De Berg	October 20	Karla Vos
	Brent & Brenda Rolffs		Alexa Van Zante
October 27	Gary & Lynnette Christensen	October 27	Pam Vos
	Doug and Brenda Vos		Judson Vos
November 3	Kyle & Kendra Van Kooten	November 3	Brooke Dunsbergen
	Melvin & Wanda Lanser		Aspen Kramer
November 10	Daryl & Linda Menninga	November 10	Angela Veenstra
	Verlan & Sally Van Wyk		Bailey Vos
November 17	Doug & Ellie Van Zee	November 17	Jana Van Zante
	Alvin & Mary Fopma		Alexa & Noelle Van Zante
November 24	Brennan & Shelby Veenstra	November 24	Norma Beerends
	Scotty & Brenda De Nooy		Harlan Beerends
<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>		November 28 Thanksgiving	Jen Lowry
			Hayden Lowry
		<p>If unable to serve in the nursery on your assigned Sunday, please trade with someone on the list.</p>	



Ladies...
Save Thursday, November 7, at 9:00
for our next sewing day.

Be watching for more details.

Celebrating...



And Anniversaries

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- October 3 Lawrence Van Zee
- October 4 Joyce Dieleman
 Miranda Nikkel
- October 6 Glenna Budding (96)
 Zachary Dunsbergen
- October 7 Sharon Van Wyk
- October 8 Marvin Slings
- October 9 Bonnie De Nooy
- October 10 Valerie Nikkel
 Kelsie Van Haaften
- October 11 Troy Fopma
- October 14 Hampton Lowry
- October 15 Phyllis Zylstra
 Madison Jochems
 Jodi De Berg
- October 17 Harlan Beerends
- October 18 Theda Fopma (97)
- October 19 Owen Vos
- October 21 Tyler De Berg
- October 23 Marilyn Vander Griend
 Norma Beerends
 Abbie De Berg
 Gwendalyn Zylstra
- October 24 Laurel Zylstra
- October 25 Heather Hastings
 Caleb Roose
 Aspen Kramer
- October 26 Caroll Jansen
- October 29 Maggie Kornelis
- October 30 Duke Zylstra
- October 31 Esme Plowman
 Amelia Plowman

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- October 2 Stuart & Sheila Pleima
- October 4 Randy & Jodi De Vries
- October 8 Merl & Candy Van Zante
- October 9 Murray & Kendra Pothoven
- October 12 Brent & Beth Vander Molen
- October 14 Ben and Heather Hastings



Celebrating...



And Anniversaries

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 4 Ed Dieleman
Brayden Van Sant
Bradley Van Sant

November 6 Jodi De Vries
Wesley Zylstra
Jacie Kramer

November 7 Linda Menninga

November 9 Joel Vos

November 12 Alvin Fopma
Rick Fopma

November 13 Barrett Dunsbergen

November 14 Julie Van Wyk (Lauren)

November 16 Zelda Engbers (92)
Joan Vos

November 17 Hudson Plowman

November 19 Peter Van Soelen (97)

November 21 Dwight Vander Leest
Nolan Vos
Bella Nikkel

November 24 Noelle Van Zante

November 26 Kevin Plowman

November 27 Scott Roose
Levi Laverman

November 28 Julie Van Wyk

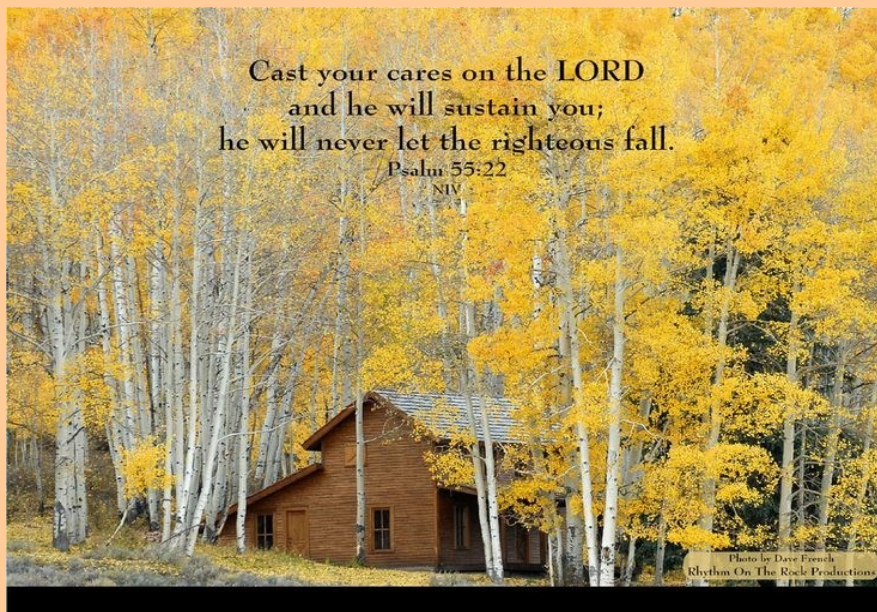
NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

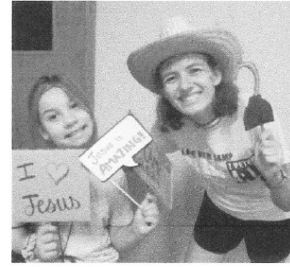
November 1 Harlan & Norma Beerends (50)

November 4 Gary & JoAnn Fynaardt

November 19 Doug & Brenda Vos

November 28 Frank & Karen Van Soelen (55)
Dale & Julie Van Wyk (50)





THANK YOU!

Sully Christian Reformed Church -

Thank you for being a part of our Angel Tree camping ministry this past summer. With your help, we were able to give every Angel Tree child a backpack full of supplies they needed during their week of camp. What a blessing to share God's love with campers in this way! Thank you for giving of your time and resources to this project. Campers were amazed that people they didn't even know cared about them and wanted them to have a good week of camp.

Thank you for being a part of sharing God's love with Angel Tree children and helping campers have a memorable week at camp!

Thanks!

Lake View Staff and Board

*"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech
but with actions and in truth."
1 John 3:18*



ONE CENTER MANY PIECES

Eastern + Southern Africa

building teams, equipping leadership, empowering families | sept 2024



PHOTO: There were so many highlights from our time in Luxor and Cairo, Egypt in March. One of them was our tour of the [Cave Churches](#) in [Garbage City](#). It was inspiring to see what can happen when Christians come together even amidst the most challenging circumstances.

2024 Ministry Highlights so far

Megan started this newsletter in June. Life happened so June was changed to July. And suddenly, we find ourselves in September. I'm sure some of you can relate - this year is flying by at a dizzy-ing rate. Whenever we sat down to write an update, it all felt like a lot - the highs and the lows. And it's been difficult to

know where to start. So month after month, writing an update got put off. We really value our connection with you and we truly rely on your prayer, encouragement and financial support to be able to serve Jesus together - especially all the prayers that God uses to sustain ministry and our family! So please accept our apologies for the silence.

To catch our ministry partners up to speed, we thought ministry highlights from Jan-Aug would be a great place to start. Ministry centers around relationship, which means this list doesn't adequately capture everything, but here's a glimpse of what ministry has looked like so far in 2024:

JAN

- The kids kicked off their new school year - 9th and 12th grade.
- Mike finished up Reconnect visits in central Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan.
- Megan had a slight panic with so many ministry possibilities but few confirmations. After a morning prayer time submitting it all to God, she answered 4 phone calls before noon confirming ministry opportunities. What a lesson that was!
- Mosky moved into the house! Mosky's urban ministry job leading after-school outreach to children was unexpectedly terminated. We had been praying about how to use extra space in our home after Omphile and Thully moved out. Megan has been mentoring Mosky since 2018. It was a gift to offer the space to Mosky as she navigates next steps and to continue mentoring with close proximity.
- Children's ministry resumed at Following Jesus.

FEB

- Megan had a lot of mentoring moments with young adults in ministry which has continued throughout the year.
- Mike's made his final PhD submission!
- Mike joined the family back in Johannesburg.
- By invitation, Megan and the Idea Lab participants prepared for and set up the Idea Lab photo exhibit at the Faculty of Theology at University of Pretoria. It was amazing to see the women present their stories, become further empowered, and have their stories influence theology students and staff at the university - even with protest disruptions that locked us on campus for several hours.

MAR

- We hosted visitors from our Nigeria days.
- Megan did a training on identity in Christ for education students and interns.
- Mike finalized annual ministry plans and budgets for 2024-25 with our regional team members.
- We prepared for and participated in joint Resonate team retreat in Egypt. Such a rich time of learning, fellowship, and being inspired with our Resonate Eastern-Southern Africa and Middle East team! Stella started learning Arabic when got back (and is still at it).

APR

- Nico went to Portugal for a soccer trial. (In July, they asked him to consider a contract for the development team which feeds into the pros - but he had clear confirmation from God that this was not his next step.)
- Megan walked alongside colleagues at TLF through the news that the shelter had to be temporarily closed and ministry plans paused due to financial constraints.
- Mike and colleague Selena began to lead the [Urban Africa 2050 Research Group](#) which seeks to integrate urban realities within theological education in seven different African cities.
- Graduation for Dr. Mike! It was so beautiful to celebrate his hard work and what he learned through the process.
- Mike, Megan and SA colleague Selena attended the wedding of our newest colleague Tara Woodward to Arendt Bosman. It was our first time at a "bush" wedding!

MAY

- Term 2 of school and Megan started teaching 73 grade 9 students at Alma Mater International School. She was invited to adapt her Idea Lab photo program into the Life Orientation subject for the rest of the school year.
- Mike traveled to Zambia to strengthen ministry partnerships and spend time with Ryan and Jody Faber, members of our team.
- We hosted volunteers in South Africa. Kody Tesch, Caleb Smit, and Jack Dykstra from Immanuel Christian Reformed Church in Orange City came for 2 weeks to experience ministry alongside us. Mike and the gents spent a week at a partner ministry [Rise Upliftment](#) in Drakensberg and then spent a week with us in Jozi.

JUN

- Megan traveled to Kenya to co-present on therapeutic photography at a resilience symposium held in Kibera, Kenya. It provided a beautiful time of fellowship with our colleagues in Kenya and a time to pray and dream about future collaborative efforts in mission.
- With much joy, we celebrated our nephew Kobi Baccam's wedding to Alyssa Feeley in Iowa.
- Mike visited Uganda to renew partnerships and to spend time encouraging our team members serving in Kampala, Gulu, Obule, and Soroti.

JUL

- Megan started collaborative work with Sarah Aderemi, missionary in Nigeria. Together, we are writing a photography program for families that we are really excited about!
- Megan started piloting the family photo program with our own family. ;) We will use it guide us through the upcoming changes we are anticipating in our family.
- Mike carried out annual performance reviews for each member of our regional team.

AUG

- Amira (who was visiting in Jul and Aug) volunteered at the global Innerchange retreat, supporting fellow Third Culture Kids in making sense of who they are as TCK's

- Mike's hard work planning the Biennial Consultation on Urban Ministry with a small team came to fruition. It had a lot of challenges but was a rich time of learning and a beautiful time of reconnecting with others in ministry.
- The [Urban Africa 2050](#) research team met in person to consider possible research themes.

Currently, Megan is back in the swing of things with her grade 9 students and putting final details into the Family Strengths Photo Program plan. Mike continues to guide our team across the region and is planning to lead a retreat later in the month in Cape Town. The kids have a couple more weeks of classes before final year exams begin.

Making sense of a life in Missions

This feels a bit vulnerable to share, especially when we haven't fully made sense of it ourselves. It's crazy to think our oldest child is the same age we were when we first entered missions. As our children get older, as they move out and experience their own passport culture, and as we reflect together on the highs and lows of life in missions, we are becoming more aware of what mission life has meant for us as a family. We don't have any regrets about choosing to do missions. But we are becoming more aware of the costs and things we could have done differently. A life of adapting - to new cultures while also adapting to the needs and expectations when on home service/Reconnect - has made us really adaptable, but has also resulted in overlooking our own needs in order to serve and give and led to a bit of disconnection and disorientation within ourselves. For example, one of our kids shared that they don't always see their needs as valid because they've always had to think of others first. Thinking of others first is great - but not so much when it dissociates you. There is also this reality that we are part of SO much - local organizations in the country we are serving, churches in America, our church here in SA, our regional mission team, relationships with people across the globe. And yet we experience a lack of belonging because we are on the fringe of so many people and places. It is such a privilege to get to do be part of building God's kingdom where we are living, but it is tiring to always be the foreigner. It feels good to be naming the ways we've been blessed, but also to be naming the things that have been detrimental to each of us.

We are currently working through a sense of anticipatory grief that abruptly arrived when we found out that Nico's visa had only been approved until Dec 31, the end of his final academic year of high school. In South Africa, our children have always needed study visas to be here with us. At the start of his senior year, we were proactive in anticipating his final year with us, but the news that he could only stay until Dec 31 was a gut punch. It was so hard to leave our families when we first entered missions, knowing we'd miss out on critical moments in our families, especially our nieces and nephews lives. But now, the reality of being apart from our own children - that's ushered in a new level of loss. Americans can visit SA for 90 days without a visa, so he will be able to be in SA 90 days at a time, but he will have to enter and exit the country after each 90 day "visit." We are confident God will have unique opportunities and provide for Nico between the end of Dec and when he starts university in Aug 2025. We would appreciate your prayers as we discern how to navigate the 8 months Nico has between Dec 31 and when he will begin his university studies in 2025.

Giving

Last year, God ignited your generosity, and our \$20,000 shortfall was fully covered. The new fiscal year started July 1. We have a goal this year to increase our monthly and annual supporters by 7-10 people. If you haven't already joined, we would love for you to prayerfully consider being our partners in mission. We are

really excited for what God is cooking up for the rest of 2024 and into 2025! 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

- Idea Lab women: We saw God initiate such beautiful growth in the women living at the Potter's House shelter after the Idea Lab program in 2023. Most of the women exited the shelter at the end of 2023. Unfortunately, their re-entry brought them to the most affordable living places - which were not safe or encouraging places to live. When Megan asked the women if they felt safe in their new communities, they responded, "Megan -this place is the OG Sodom and Gomorrah!" Several of the women are really struggling to meet daily demands in life and to make good choices amidst the crime and difficult living. One of the women attempted to overdose in June. She phoned Megan to say she forgot who she was again, but she put her photos up in her mom's house to remind her so she doesn't forget this time. Please pray with us that God sends them constant reminders of who they are and of the fullness that is available to them in Christ. **Pray that God will** meet their housing and job needs so that they can provide for themselves and their children.
- TLF: Tshwane Leadership Foundation, a ministry we work alongside, made the difficult decision to temporarily close their shelters and ministries due to the loss of funding. It is painful to see this incredible resource and Christian community to vulnerable people paused. And to pause our own programming with them for this year. **Please pray that God** brings the right funders and that their ministry services can soon resume.
- Alma Mater grade 9 students: Please pray that God brings greater wholeness to the lives of the 73 grade 9 students Megan is currently teaching. The students are dealing with a lot of anger and anxiety. **Pray that God will** work in the students' hearts this term and that they will know God in new ways.
- VISAs: Our current visas have both expired. Mike applied to renew his visa a year ago Feb and Megan applied a year ago in Oct. We have letters saying we can be "legally illegal" but not having valid visas has implications for the bank, taxes, and other things. **Please pray that God** gives us favor to obtain our visas. And for wisdom as we navigate Nico's expiring visa in Dec.
- Good Health: We've had our share of health challenges this year. In March, Mike was diagnosed with hip dysplasia - something he was born with but only recently experienced pain and spasms. Through strengthening exercises, he is feeling less pain these days. Megan was pain free for so many months, but it returned with a vengeance in July again - still seeking answers. Nico has struggled all year with gagging episodes, sometimes for up to an hour per day. He was diagnosed with a form of epilepsy in August. **Please pray that God** continues to bring healing to our bodies.

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KIDS COLORING PAGE



God protects Daniel in a den of lions. Daniel 6:1-28

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AUTHENTIC FAITH

Isn't it wonderful how God doesn't require you to have a large amount of faith in order to act in your life? He understands the struggle to believe in something you can't see, so He doesn't expect faith the size of Mt. Rushmore! No, you only need to have a small amount, just so long as it's real. Authentic faith the size of a dot can move a mountain. So, what is He convicting you to have faith in Him for?

Believe...trust...have genuine faith that He will do what He says He will do.

*But I have trusted in Your faithful love;
My heart will rejoice in Your deliverance.*

Psalm 15:5 HCSB

*But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, you of little faith?"
Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea.*

And there was a great calm.

Matthew 8:26 HCSB

*"Go your way," Jesus told him. "Your faith has healed you."
Immediately he could see and began to follow Him on the road.*

March 10:52 HCSB

PRAYER:

Yes, Lord, I trust You and have faith that You are true to Your promises. You have never failed me in the past, so I have faith that You are with me now and in my future. Amen