



"The First Edition"

**of First Reformed Church
Sioux Falls, SD**

December 2017

*"Connect with others,
Grow in faith, and
Be Transformed by the Holy Spirit"*



Christmas Eve Worship 2017

Sunday, December 24th

2 Candlelight Worship Services: 10:00 am & 5:00 pm

Same worship service - choice of two different times

Merry Christmas from the staff of First Reformed Church

Pastor Steve, Pastor Ken

Lyle, Tanner, Lisa

Janet, Courtney, Tuakah, Micah

To locate the calendar, please go to the home page of FRC's church website



Sunday, December 3rd
11:30 am

Lunch in the fellowship hall (food provided)
After everyone is done eating, we will go caroling to
FRC's shut ins

You're Invited to:



Children's Christmas Program
December 17th 5:00pm



FRC Sanctuary

The Children's Christmas Program is scheduled for Sunday, December 17th. All children from ages 3 years old to 5th grade are invited to participate. See page 7 for the practice schedule.



Sunday, December 10th
11:30 am

Potluck in fellowship hall
(Bring a main dish and a salad or dessert to share)

Once lunch is done, we will move to the sanctuary for the annual meeting. At the annual meeting, we will hear ministry team 2017 highlights, affirm the elder/deacon nominees, and also vote on the proposed 2018 budget.

Elder and Deacon Nominees are:

For Elder: Cal Hoekstra, Joel Klatt, Carl Wynja (consecutive term), & Mark Perrenoud (consecutive term)

For Deacon: Cory DeWitt, Luke Boe, Trenton Burbach, Renee Leffers, Sharla VanWettering, Travis VanGinkel, Mark DeWitt, & Vince Yusten

All members are encouraged to enjoy lunch and then attend the annual meeting.



December 3, 10 & 17 Worship

Duplicate services at 8:30 am and 10:30 am

We know that people of all ages love to sing Christmas carols during Advent.

And, that is why this December, we are filling both worship services with carols.

In fact, during December, both worship services will be exactly the same - with the same carols, worship bands, etc.

So come, let us adore him and worship together!

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Roger Kriz
Grace Kroon
Darcy Van Gorp
Jacob Vermeer
Owen Albers
Doug VanRoekel
- 2 Glen Landeen
- 3 Rhonda Miller
- 4 Taylor Klein
William Jonescheit
- 5 Ashley Meyer
Mark Zweep
Anthony Mills
- 7 Ronitta Sandahl
- 8 Jacob Green
- 9 Jason Burns
- 10 Monte De Jong
Abby Larsen
- 11 Olivia Albers
Keri Eberline
- 13 Sean Guthmiller
- 14 Norman Buysman
Haley Lee
Luke Boe
Cooper Hutchinson
- 15 LaVonne Reemtsma
- 17 Carol Nugteren
Levi DeWitt
Todd Canfield
- 18 Amber Burns
Janet Anthes
Jackson Ellens
- 20 Katie Lathan
- 21 Patty Terpening

- 22 Beckham Dewitt
- 24 Tina Buysman
Timothy Klein
- 25 Katie Whisler
- 26 Benita Weinacht
Collin Dewitt
- 28 Lynette Foltz
Karen DeWitt
Peyton Klein
Hunter DeWitt
- 29 Laurie Landeen
Abby Perrenoud
Shaun Drummond
- 30 Vicki Berg
Connor Westra
Andre Barnabe
- 31 Lorna De Bulten
Delany Lammers
Eva Punt



Anniversaries

- 8 Don & Carol Nugteren
- 11 Jason & Carmen Doppenberg
- 27 Jay & Diane Nagel
- 28 Neal & Laurie Landeen
- 29 Bill & Mary Schoep



If we missed your birthday, please, notify the office so we can update our records and include you next year.




For kids ages
Preschool
through 5th grade

“A Night in Bethlehem”

Sundays: December 3, 10, & 17
9:30 - 10:15 am

Meets in the lower level of the education wing

Go back in time with us to explore the Bethlehem of long ago

December 3: Taking the census, the tent makers, games children played in Bible times

December 10: The leather sandal shop, the vineyard, the perfume shop

December 17: Animals of the Bible, the pottery shop, the stable

Come grow closer to Jesus with us in December



Why Santa

Many of you have probably wondered why we have Santa at the church right after Thanksgiving. After all, isn't Santa all about consumerism and want? Honestly, I have wondered that myself too. And, it sure would have been a lot easier not to have this event because of how busy this time of year is. But, after being involved with last Saturday's Kids Christmas Celebration, I know in my heart why this event is a special time for the kids in our community. Let me explain why.

First, the origins of Santa and St. Nicholas are very strongly based on a Christian Bishop who went around sharing good deeds with people who had special needs. The whole story is quite interesting, and I am sure Lyle would love to tell it to you sometime. But know that Santa carries much history and excitement.

Second, I heard a few comments from people on Saturday that we have the best Santa in Sioux Falls. And, why is this? This isn't just because he looks so real but it is also because he truly cares about each and every kid who walks through the door.

Third, yes, probably the primary reason the families came was to get a picture with Santa. But, do you know what they left with? They left with reminders of Jesus' birth. From the happy birthday Jesus stickers or inspirational stickers on their frames or bags, to the happy birthday Jesus ornament, and to the nativity doorknob or craft; they all were items the kids made and will be proudly displayed in their rooms or on the refrigerator during this Advent season. And, they got a picture with Santa too!

And, finally, this event continues to grow in numbers with so many visitors attending. Our hope is that they will remember the open door, friendly smiles, and the small hints of the real reason for Christmas that the kids went home with. And, maybe, just maybe this will entice them to celebrate His birth by attending worship during the Christmas season at any church of their choice or even here at FRC.

Merry Christmas, *Lisa Drenth*

After School/Summer Care Program Closing

With great sadness the After School/Summer Care Team wants to inform the congregation that upon the recommendation of the Administrative Team and approval of the Consistory; effective December 31, 2017 we will no longer offer after school and summer care at our church.

On page 12 of this newsletter we have highlighted several of the highlights of this program during the past 5 1/2 years.



Young Adult Christmas Baking Party

Thursday, December 21st

5:30 pm

FRC Fellowship Hall

Here's what's happening at the baking party:

5:30 pm - Barbeques and chips will be served

You are welcome to bring a salad or dessert to share

Baking will begin after we eat

Bring your own baking supplies (flour, sugar, butter, etc) for a favorite Christmas treat recipe

Comment on FRC's Young Adult face book group page what you will be making (just to make sure there is a variety of Christmas treats)

At the end of the night, everyone will go home with a plate full of yummy Christmas treats

All young adults invited! Invite a friend!

Sunday School in December

All kids from ages Preschool - 5th grade won't want to miss "A Night in Bethlehem" which will be held in place of Sunday School in December. See page 5 to learn more about this wonderful opportunity for our children. *A Night in Bethlehem* will meet in the lower level of the Education wing.

Reminder:

Sunday's, December 24th (Christmas Eve) & December 31st (New Year's Eve)

NO Sprouts in Worship, Children & Worship, or Sunday School



Sprouts in Worship

We have had an exciting, fun-filled experience in Sprouts in Worship, with up to 23 different children (ages 2-4) being a part of this ministry! This fall we have been working on the Bible verse, "The Lord is good to all". This winter we will be exploring the Fruits of the Spirit, Creation, & the Easter Story.

Moving forward at the beginning of 2018, we will be changing and offering Sprouts in Worship during the 10:30 service only. This is due to the limited number of children ages 2-4 during the 8:30 worship service. Nursery services will be available for children through age 3 during the first service, and children who are 4 years old may attend Children & Worship as an alternative. We will reevaluate this again next fall and see how many children are in this age group.

Thanks for sharing your children with us!

FRC Education Team

Children's Christmas Program Practice



Program Practice

Ages 3 - Pre K

will be practicing for the Christmas program on Sunday mornings. This age group will also be practicing in the sanctuary on Wednesday, Dec. 13th beginning at 6:15 pm. This will be a short practice and parents are welcome to stay while their children practice.

Ages K-5th Grade

Wednesday's: Dec 6th & 13th

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Ages K-5th Grade

(It is important that your child attends both practices)

Wednesday Evening's



Serving 5:30 - 6:10 pm / in the church fellowship hall

Come and delight in a home cooked meal without the rush / Free will donation

December Menu:

- Dec. 6 - *Spaghetti with meat sauce* - served by the Connect team
- Dec. 13 - *Walking tacos* - served by the After School team
- Dec. 20 & 27 & Jan 3 - No The Table

And, of course, there will be hotdogs, sides, desserts, and drinks with every meal.

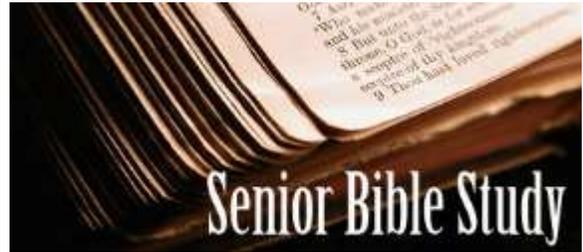
A huge thanks to all of the ministry teams who have prepared and served the meals this fall!

Adult Small Group Studies

Adult Sunday School Guide

Sunday mornings from 9:40 - 10:15 am

While studying the Sunday School Guide publication put out by the Reformed Church of America, this class encourages Christian growth and maturity through the study of the Bible. Each week, scripture is studied and discussed. Articles written by various church leaders throughout the country are also a point of interest. This class meets each Sunday in Room 12 of the Education wing.



Monday, December 4, 2017

10:00 am @ Meadowstone

Meets the 1st Monday of the month

Prayer Groups

Everyone is invited to join these prayer groups held in the church prayer room

Every Wednesday: 6:30 am

Early Morning Prayer Group

Every other Wednesday: 5:30 pm / December 6th & 20th

Men's Prayer Group

Contact Lyle Kroon to learn more about a prayer group



Coffee Fellowship

Tuesday, December 19th

2:00 pm

FRC fellowship hall

Please feel free to bring a Christmas treat to share

Care Ministry Groups

Last month, members of the Care Ministry team have been briefly explaining on Sunday how you can become involved in one or more areas of the Care Ministry.

In case if you were gone or thought about it more and wanted to become involved, we have placed copies of the bulletin inserts on the Care Ministry table in the fellowship hall.

You can talk to Mari Perrenoud or Gaylene Christensen for more information as well.

Women's Monthly Bible Study Groups

All women are invited to join one of two monthly small group women Bible Studies

Esther Circle Christmas Party

December 7, 2017 - 6:00 pm

Don't forget to bring a white elephant gift

The Esther Circle usually meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall and is studying "Bad Girls of the Bible". However, December is their Christmas party, so they will be meeting on December 7th instead. Contact person for the Esther Circle is Jean Volkers.

Faith Circle Bible Study

Meets the 4th Thursday of the month

The Faith Circle meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm. In December, they will be meeting on December 28th at Beef O'Brady's. They are studying "Imitating God". Contact people for the Faith Circle are Donna Larsen or Chrystal Poppen.

Kids Christmas Celebration

A HUGE thank you to this year's volunteers and cookie makers for the Kids Christmas Celebration. We had the largest turnout ever! The kids attending got to see Santa and also have fun making crafts and decorating cookies. Plus, they were able to take home some keepsakes about the true meaning of Christmas. And, of course, we would like to give a special thank you to our own Sioux Falls Santa. He truly makes every child feel special, and we are so blessed to have him here at FRC.



FRC Youth Ministry

6th - 12th grade youth

**Hy-Vee Card Sales**

(Following the 8:30 service in the fellowship hall)

Dec. 3: Vermeer, **Dec. 10:** Wynja
Dec. 17: Albers, **Dec 24 & 31:** No Sales

Youth Sunday School

Each Sunday / 9:30 - 10:15 am

Meets downstairs in one of the youth Sunday School rooms located by the large multipurpose room

FRC YOUTH MINISTRY

- December 6th (Guest Speaker—Regular MS & HS YG Times + Meal)
 - December 13th (MS 6:15pm + Meal 7:30pm + HS 8:00-9:00pm)
 - December 20th (Christmas Party 6:15pm-11:00pm)
- December 24th (Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 10am & 5pm)
 - December 27th & January 3rd (No Youth Group)
 - January 10th (Pizza @ Church 5:30-6:30
6:45 Leave for Air Madness—Jumping from 7:00—8:00pm)
Cost is \$15 + \$2 for socks
- January 17th (MS 6:15pm + Meal 7:30pm + HS 8:00-9:00pm)
- January 24th (MS 6:15pm + Meal 7:30pm + HS 8:00-9:00pm)
- January 31st (MS 6:15pm + Meal 7:30pm + HS 8:00-9:00pm)

2018 Meal Sign Up

If you would like to provide a meal for a Wednesday evening youth group, the sign up has begun for 2018. To sign up, go to the "Youth" page of FRC's website.

If you want to know more about youth ministry at FRC, talk to Tanner and also visit: www.frcsiouxfalls.com/youth.html for more information.

Yearly Assessments (Per Member)

As we close out the year, the Deacons would like to remind everyone that almost \$39,000 of our 2017 general fund budget goes to the RCA for assessment payments. To break this down even further, in 2017, FRC paid \$98.62 to the RCA for each confessing member. This number will increase to \$105.30 per member in 2018.

If you are a member here, please consider this amount as you are giving to the church. Thank you!

2018 Offering Envelopes

In mid to late December, we will be putting the 2017 offering envelope boxes in your church mailbox.

If you have not used envelopes in the past or did not receive envelopes in your mailbox after late December and would like to begin using the envelopes, please contact Lisa in the church office. We will be glad to get you offering envelopes for 2018. You do not have to be a FRC member to receive these envelopes.

Also, as a reminder, we do offer electronic giving through ACH. These offerings are also recorded on your yearly giving statement. And, this way of giving is very convenient and safe. Talk to Lisa or any deacon to learn more. Enrollment ACH forms can be found at the Opportunity table in the fellowship hall.

Change of Address / Phone Number

Everyone: Please Note

We have redesigned our friendship pads and there will no longer be a box for "new address"

Therefore, if you change any information (address, phone number, e-mail, etc), please be sure and contact Lisa in the church office with this information.



Thank you to all for the wonderful 90th birthday wishes. God has truly blessed me with His care and family and friends.

Jean VanNingen

A huge thank you to my church family for all the cards, thoughts, and prayers during my health issues. Also, a big thank you to the nurture meals team for the delicious casseroles. The Lord blessed me with a great Christian church family. God bless all of you and thank you again.

Love, Jackie Brown

Notes From FRC Deacons

Weekly Averages through October 31, 2017

General & Capital Improvements Fund

2017 Budget: \$11,748.76
 Receipts: \$10,108.60
 Expenses: \$10,169.72

Building Debt Reduction

2017 Budget: \$905.66
 Receipts: \$778.42

Monthly Special Offering

\$1,849.00 was donated by the Congregation for the October special offering to Steve & Britt M. Our sincere thanks to all who donated.

2017 Special Offering Schedule

December - West Haven/Robins Nest Orphanages

To donate, please use one of the "Special Offering" envelopes located at the entrances or in the pews.

After School/Summer Care Program Highlights

We would like to give you some highlights of the After School/Summer Care program while it was active here at FRC.

We started May 21, 2012 with 10 children in the summer care program.

The Bookmobile stops at our site frequently during the summer.

Our location had a Cub Scout pack for the boys.

Our site was the only LSS program that had a daily devotion. That is changing slightly as the devotions will continue with the kids from our location that will relocate to the Southern Hills location

The After-School team has special crafts and a Bible story at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The After-School team hands out invitations to The Table, Christmas programs, Saturday with Santa, Kick off Sunday, the Block party, mid-week activities, Fall Festival and VBS, which the majority of the students attend.

The summer care children have had a garden for several years. Their extra produce has been on the produce table in the fellowship hall. The After-School team has taken the children fishing several summers.

Our location was featured in an article in *Hood Magazine* in 2013.

A used Rainbow Play System was donated to LSS and placed at our location and an anonymous donation was made to LSS for repair and installation along with financial assistance and labor from members of our church.

In January 2014 our students made dog bones and fleece blankets for Sioux Falls Area Humane Society and treat bags to say, "thank you" to local snow plow drivers as a way to make a positive impact on their community.

For the 2013 – 2014 school year we had 18 students. With 27 students in the summer program for 2014. We picked up students at Mark Twain, Robert Frost and Journey.

The 2014 – 2015 school year we had 22 students and 29 students in the summer program. All but three of the children attended VBS.

New larger sinks were installed in the bathrooms so the number of students could increase above 30. This was funded and accomplished thru the generous donations of many in our church.

The 2015 – 2016 school year we had 29 students from Susan B. Anthony, Sonja Sotomayor and Robert Frost. We had 37 children in the summer care program. Again, the majority attended VBS.

The 2016 – 2017 school year we had 38 students. We had 39 children in the summer care program with most attending VBS.

New flooring of our choice was installed by LSS at a cost to them of about \$5000.

\$900 in profit sharing this year and an additional \$400 to help defray the cost of mulch for the playset in addition to the flooring cost. Once the enrollment numbers hovered around 40 children, the program began making a profit. This was the understanding with LSS, from the beginning, that it would take approximately 40 children to make a profit, and that the profit would be shared equally between LSS and the Church. This was in-lieu of paying rent.

There have been about 2-3 kids that have participated in the Wednesday evening activities each year.

There has been some minor 'damage' to the building and LSS stepped up every time to cover the cost of repair when asked.

Below are some excerpts from a letter written by one of our members explaining an experience during VBS:

"I chose to wear a shirt that day with the verse from Romans: 'Nothing can ever separate us from God's love.' (Rom 8:38). A young girl, whose eyes were sparkling with the Mobius strip demonstration, said "I love making those!" was from our After-School Program. Afterwards she came up to me and told me she had a shirt with the same verse on it from a camp called Royal Family Kids Camp. Royal Family Kids Camp is a camp for children who are in or who have gone through foster care. We were both excited. She told me she was going to camp this summer again and her brother was going for the first time. I told her to look for me in the kitchen but since there are three camps, we weren't sure if we would be at the same one.

When this young girl got off the bus our eyes met, she broke into a smile, and wrapped her arms around me. Grateful for having one familiar face at camp.

She invited me to join her and her guide for lunch one day. During lunch, she asked if I remembered the empty tomb rolls we had made as an Easter project. I asked her to tell her guide about them. She did and also proceeded to tell about the other crafts we did at Easter and Christmas. I sat there amazed at all she remembered with the devotions and crafts we have done downstairs.

Because of our After-School Program, seeds have been planted and nurtured – with devotions, VBS and activities at Easter and Christmas centering around the love of our Savior and God, our Father."

We want to thank all of you who have supported the After School/Summer Care program and the seeds it has planted in all the children and parents what were once welcomed here. It is greatly appreciated.

The After-School Team, Tim & Cindi Klein, Deb Brenneman, Ed Van Dyke



Ladies Auxiliary Bake Sale

December 16th & 23rd

Do you love the food that comes from the Inspiration Hills Camp Kitchen? Or are you simply stressed with making all the goodies during the Christmas season? Well we are here to help! This is an event where you can pre order goodies from our kitchen and pick them up on the 16th & 23rd of December. Go to www.inspirationhills.org under the "Events" tab and find our "Celebrate Christmas". There you will find an order form to support Inspiration Hills and take the stress off of your shoulders! Orders are due by December 8th. Help us raise funds for camp!

Christmas Devotional

Want to dig into His word this Christmas season? This year, several of FRC's members were involved in writing daily devotions for the Advent season.

These devotionals can be found in your church mailbox. So, make sure you check your church mailbox when you are at church.

Also, if you don't have a church mailbox, we have placed additional copies of the Christmas devotional on the welcome table in the front foyer.

And, make sure you let Lisa know if you don't have a mailbox and would like one. We can easily set one up for you.

FOR TO US A SON IS GIVEN



Opportunity For All Ages...

Sadly, many of the inmates do not receive any Christmas cards or gifts during the Christmas season. Would you be willing to make a batch of fudge or help some kids make Christmas cards? All of the Christian organizations, in the prisons and jails, join together to make gift bags to hand out at Christmas time. They try to give every inmate one homemade card and 3 pieces of fudge for Christmas. That's where we need your help. We need 5,000 handmade Christmas cards and 15,000 pieces of fudge to accomplish this

goal. Would you help us make this goal? See the Cornerstone Prison Church website or the Living Stone Prison Church newsletter found in your church mailbox for more details.

We have included copies of the fudge recipe on the table by the bulletin board in the church fellowship hall.

Cards and fudge can be delivered to the following locations in Sioux Falls from Monday, December 11 to Friday, December 15:

- Eastside Lutheran Church, 1300 E. 10th Street, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Preferably North Door Entrance
- St. Michael Catholic Church, 1600 S. Marion Road, Main Entrance A

The Treasurer's Report is not available online for the general public.



First Reformed Church

4800 S. Tomar Road, Sioux Falls SD 57108

Phone: 605-338-1553

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Phone Prayer Line: 605-338-1553 Option #2

Email: office@firstreformedsf.com

The Consistory

Elders

2017

Tim Ageton
Mari Perrenoud
Carl Wynja, Vice President

2018

Earl Brown
Dennis Olsen, Clerk
Jim Westra

2019

Darcy VanGorp
Galen Versteeg

Deacons

2017

Judy Rall
Bill Schoep
Dana VanRoekel, Asst Treasurer

2018

Brandon Kinney
Timothy Klein, Treasurer
Linda Olsen

2019

Bill Blewett
Jay Headley

Website

www.firstreformedsf.com



firstreformedsf



FirstReformedSF

Sunday Morning's

8:30 am & 10:30 am Worship

(See special times for December 24th & 31st)

For Children During Worship

In the Early Childhood Center (see the signs behind the sanctuary)

For Infants - Toddlers: Staffed Nursery
(During both services and Sunday School)

For Toddlers through Pre K: *Sprouts in Worship*

(Go immediately to the Early Childhood Center before each service)

For K - 2nd Grade: *Children & Worship*

(Children will be dismissed during worship)

NO Sprouts or Children & Worship on December 24th & 31st



Each week, both worship services can be viewed live or any day of the week that works with your schedule. All links can be found on FRC's website under "Livestream" on the front page or the "Resources" page.

How to Contact your Church Staff:

Pastor Steve Anthes - Pastor of Education & Spiritual Growth - 351-2685; email: steve@firstreformedsf.com

Pastor Ken Eberline - Pastor of Administration & Worship - 261-3150; email: ken@firstreformedsf.com

Tanner Mans - Director of Youth Ministries - 370-2743; Email: TannerM@firstreformedsf.com

Lyle Kroon - Traditional Service Worship Coordinator - 335-1624; email: clam@firstreformedsf.com

Micah Reiersen & Tuakah Whianger - Contemporary Service Worship Coordinators

Janet Anthes - Connection & Volunteer Coordinator - 254-5646; email: janet@firstreformedsf.com

Lisa Drenth - Office Manager - 338-1553; email: office@firstreformedsf.com

Deadline for article submission for the First Edition : The third Sunday of the month unless otherwise published.