



SIoux FALLS, SD

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

September 18-24

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Baptism & Profession This Sunday

Join us this Sunday at 10:30am to witness the baptism of Marissa Reichert, daughter of Nathan & Melanie Reichert (CG 2), and profession of faith of Brianna Schelhaas, daughter of Jeremy & Rebekah Schelhaas (CG 5)

Forum-Sermon Series Deep Dive TONIGHT!

Join us tonight, Wednesday, in the Sanctuary at 6:45pm as we further explore last Sunday's sermon with an open forum to "deep dive" into the subject matter to discuss and encourage one another to follow through on the call that comes from God's Word. Bring your thoughts, questions, neighbors and friends.

Due to the sensitive topics of the conversations, we not be live-streaming these events to the public.

We encourage you to attend, but If you are unable to attend and would like to be able to watch in the following days, please email_office@firstchristianreformed.org.

Fall Sermon Series: Life, Liberty & the Pursuit Of God

This week Pastor Steve continues his 3rd of a 9-part series focusing on the Christian's voice and role in a secular world. The series is divided into 3 sections of 3 messages each.

The first section is "Life". We will talk about the value of human life from God's perspective and how that impacts how we should look at abortion, euthanasia, care for the "least of these", immigration, human sexuality, and gender identity.

The second section is "Liberty", with a specific emphasis on matters of stewardship and how Christian liberty should shape our approach to the ethic of work, addressing justice and disparity issues related to poverty and discrimination, and the healthy use of philanthropy to advance a society.

The final section is "Pursuit of God." This section will focus on nurturing our faith to stay focused on Christ, the "author and perfecter of our faith", through the storms of secularism and humanism that permeate so much of our present society. We will focus particularly on what it means to witness in the face of silencing, maintaining Christian witness integrity in the face of gaslighting, and deepening hope and resolve in the face of a world longing for a reason to be.

This series is "defensive" (ready to stand our ground) as much as it is "offensive" (taking ground for the Kingdom of God). Please join together in prayer for our hearts and lives to be ready and to change where needed so that we are eyewitnesses and willing participants in seeing God's Kingdom and His will being done here on earth and is it in Heaven!

Wednesday Night Meals Returning Tonight!

Join us the first 3 Wednesday Nights of the month, during the ministry season for a church wide meal from 5:30 to 6:30pm. We are having PIZZA tonight as we kick off WNM Ministry for the year!

Come SERVE!

We looking for a group that would like to serve the meal on Oct 16. It will most likely be a pizza night, so serving should be easy! Contact Denae if your group might be interested in serving and bonding this way!

Senior & Friends

We will meet in the Fireside Room on Saturday, September 21, at 9:30 am.

Just a thought... Have you considered how you'd react to a terminal cancer diagnosis? Against medical advice, Marv Roelofs chose to refuse treatment. Marv's wife, Dr. Lois Roelofs, Professor Emerita of Nursing, Trinity Christian College, will present their experience as written in her book, *MARV TAKING CHARGE: A STORY OF BOLD LOVE AND COURAGE*, at our next Senior and Friends meeting, accompanied by her daughter, Kathleen Ridder, former long-term care administrator. To further education on this topic, Lois will be giving a limited number of books away.

Lois has lived in Sioux Falls for eight years. Her husband's hospice care was through Avera. Come and hear this amazing story with a local touch. Bring a friend and enjoy some coffee doughnuts.

Transportation Ministry

Would you be willing to give a ride to church to one or two members who needed one in your own vehicle? Would you be willing to drive our mini bus (no special license needed) if we had the need? We have a number of members that cannot get here on their own, and that number will continue to increase. Take a look at your schedule, could you do it once a month? If you would like more information about this opportunity please contact- al@firstchristianreformed.org

PASTOR'S PONDERING'S

When There's a Gap in the Foundation

This past week we had some work done at our house on the driveway and back concrete patio area. At first glance, one might have thought: this looks simple enough.

Well... Not so fast.

There's this great technology and scientific advancement that allows for holes to be drilled and a firm substance (first in liquid form) to be pumped underneath the concrete to provide a leveling effect when natural shifts take place. Once the liquid, which converts to a foam-like substance, becomes firm, the concrete is stabilized and strengthened to be walked/driven on. This, combined with some sanding down of the edges, often results in a "new" sense of level and stable.

While this simple process worked well on our driveway, it became far more complicated with the patio. Once holes were drilled into the patio, the foam-pumping began. And they pumped, and pumped, and pumped... and nothing was happening. Turns out, the sagging patio wedged against the house, with the house holding it place, while a one foot gap existed underneath the patio. Had not the house held it in place, we could have lost the patio or worst yet, somebody could have been standing on it and it suddenly give way.

Ouch.

While it took 3-4 times the ordinary amount of liquid/foam to fill the gap, the gap is now filled, the patio is level, and the safety concern removed. Whew!

A simple, relatable story to go with Jesus' teaching on where we will build our lives. Will we build our lives in places that give, shift, and cave from underneath us, or build our lives on the Cornerstone, the unmovable, unshakeable person of Jesus Christ? If your dependence is on the things of this world, you may someday find a large gap underneath what you thought was something you could stand on. That will never happen with Christ.

We were fortunate to catch the lurking danger with our patio. When we stand before God someday, it will be too late to fill in the gaps we allowed in our lives only to find we have no footing to stand on and no reservation in God's presence for eternity.

Check you foundation today – your spiritual one. What are you standing on, depending on, leaning on? Drill some spiritual holes to peak into the out-of-the-way places in your life to see what you're standing on and make sure that you rest on the only foundation that doesn't give way: Jesus Christ.

MISSIONS

Missionary Spotlight- Voss Family

Please join us in the activity center on Sunday as we'll be having a reception for LaVeryl & Max Voss between services.

CHURCH FAMILY

Happy 102nd Birthday, Hattie!

Hattie Van Heerde will be celebrating her 102nd birthday on September 20. Care Group 8 invites you to shower Hattie with cards and love from the congregation. Send cards to 4504 Prince of Peace Pl #12 SF,SD 57103.

Caring Bridge-Darlene Walhof (CG 3) <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/darwalhof>

New-Meal Train- Darlene Walhof (CG 3) <https://mealtrain.com/oy2w81>

Caring Bridge-Rylan Van Zee (CG 6) www.caringbridge.org/visit/rylanvanzee

FIRST KIDS

Jill Smith

Christmas Program Director(s) Wanted

Passionate about kids AND Christmas? We are looking for an individual or two or three that would love to pull together a production or program for our K-3 kids this fall leading into the Christmas season. We are open to new and creative ideas for the program and would love to hear your vision for these kids to help us celebrate the birth of our Savior! Interested? Contact Jill@firstchristianreformed.org

WORSHIP

Gabby Friez

Hymn of the Month

This month's hymn of the month at the 8:30 service is "The First Place" written by Matthew Westerholm in 1999. We first introduced this song three years ago but we haven't sang it much since. Because of its correlation to our fall sermon series, I've chosen to highlight it again this month. This hymn is based on Colossians 1:15-20 and helps to remind us for the supremacy of Christ. I hope you enjoy this hymn as we continue to give Christ the first place in our lives.

Song of the Month

This month's song of the month at the 10:30 service is "The Lord is By My Side" by CityAlight, published in 2023. This was one of the songs that the SERVE team sang this summer. It is an upbeat and engaging song that reminds us of the Lord's presence with us. It is the Lord who gives us hope, peace, and joy as we commune in his presence. I hope you enjoy learning this song just like the SERVE students did!

Fall Hymn Sing

Our annual Fall Hymn Sing will be October 20 at 5 pm in the Sanctuary. Come for a time of worship and fellowship as we gather together to bring honor and glory to our Lord and King. Come prepared to shout out your favorites from our Lift Up Your Heats hymnals! We hope to see you there!

Come Join the Choir!

Vocal Choir rehearsals have begun, but it's never too late to join us! High School students and older are welcome anytime during our choir season (Sept - Apr). We meet on Sundays, 9:45-10:15 a.m. in the Choir Room, located downstairs. Come on down! We'd love to have you join our vocal music ministry!!

CATALYST

Will Grisham

Catalyst Parent Meeting- TONIGHT

Are you the parent of a new or returning student at Catalyst? Join us on TONIGHT, September 18, in the fireside room to learn more about what Catalyst is all about! We will start at 5:45 and end at 6:30. Feel free to grab some pizza from the gym and bring it along!

Faith Talk for High School

Faith Talk for HS will begin Sept 22 location TBD. Register Here or on the App:

[Register Here- Faith Talk for HS](#)

JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY

Al VanDonkersgoed

JHM

Our next meeting will be at the Heartland County Cornmaze at 6:30 pm on Sunday Sept 29, located at 27455 SD Hwy 11, Harrisburg, SD 57032. Bring a flashlight, dress for cooler weather as the sun goes down and be ready to have some fun. We will serve hot chocolate and cookies. Feel free to bring some \$ for the snack shack if you would like.

JHM Serves WNM Sept. 18- TONIGHT

Mark 9: 35 says, "...and he said to them, "if anyone would be first, he must be last of all and a servant of all." Junior High Ministry will be serving with the Wednesday Meal Ministry on Sept 18. We will be serving pizza from 5:30 to 6:30 and will need help from 5:00 to get set up, until 7 for clean up. Come for a great night of service, food and fun.

[Register for JHM](#)

BIBLE STUDIES

Cole Pleggenkuhle

Young Men's Bible Study Resumes

Join us for our Young Men's Bible Study, starting October 11th. Open to men ages 19-45.

- When: Every other Friday
- Time: 6:30 - 7:30 AM
- Where: Downstairs church conference room

We'll be studying "The Beatitudes for Today" book, exploring how these timeless teachings apply to the challenges and opportunities young men face in modern life. This study offers practical insights for living out your faith in today's world. Deepen your understanding, strengthen your spiritual foundation, and connect with other young men in our community. All young men are welcome!

To receive a calendar invite and a copy of the study content, please contact Albert at albert@movetosioxfalls.com

TECHNOLOGY

Paul Mobley

Calling all curious people of all ages! Like to know how things work?

Well do we have a deal for you! This Fall, we are launching a variety of at-your-own-pace training that includes short video series, newsletters, and articles. You'll have access to options like 'Sound System Basics', 'Intro to Screens & Lyrics', 'Video Cameras for Worship', and 'Hearing Assistance in Church'. We'll also have progressive levels of learning and on-site training for those who want to learn more. All ages welcome! Starting in October.

Email Paul@FirstChristianReformed.org or sign up at the office or tech booth.

COMMUNITY

Thinking About Adoption?

Are you or someone you know interested in the ministry of adoption? The adoption team of Lifeline Children's Services of South Dakota is hosting an adoption informational meeting at Hillcrest Church to answer your questions about domestic infant adoption, international orphan adoption, and adoption from foster care.

Please email Heather Buys at heather.buys@lifelinechild.org by Tuesday, September 24 to let us know you plan to attend. To learn more about Lifeline's adoption ministry, click [here](#).

New Roots

Feel uneasy about sharing the Gospel with those who don't know God? Yet, you and your good news for others are so important! Everyday-Ambassadors Practicum of New Roots Ministry in Sioux Falls is a 5-hour, fun workshop during which we learn, we are well-equipped, and we experience having spiritual conversations. You will gain an "I can do that" feeling, with carryover to interactions with acquaintances. Our last session of this year is Sat., Sept. 28, 9AM---2PM. To sign-up, text (605)376-6330, email sfnewroots@gmail.com, or visit www.sfnewroots.com/our-ministries, including to learn more.

DEACON'S MINISTRY

September 22- Building Fund

The building fund is designated towards the First CRC Church building and grounds maintenance in order to preserve and provide long-term care for our facilities

Coming Up: September 29- General Fund

Offering Totals from Last Week

General Fund: \$ 26,347
Ministry Shares: \$ 5,440
Faith Promise: \$ 365
Building Fund: \$ 2,080
Tuition Assistance: \$420
Sioux Falls Christian: \$799
Cornerstone Prison Church: \$436
Needs Of the Family: \$400

Weekly Total: \$ 36,287

CALENDAR

Wednesday, Sept 18

- **Wednesday Night Meal**
5:30-6:30pm
- **Catalyst Parent Meeting**
5:45-6:30pm
- **Prayer Meeting**
6:00-7:00pm
- **Handbell Choir**
6:30-7:30pm
- **Cadets**
6:30-8:30pm
- **Sermon "Deep Dive" Forum**
6:45-8pm
- **Catalyst**
7-9:30pm

Thursday, Sep 19

- **MomCo**
8:30-11am

Friday, Sep 20

- **Young Adult Men's Bible Study**
6:30-7:30am
- **Senior Circuit**
10:30-11:30am

Saturday, Sep 21

- **Men of Integrity**
7:30-8:30am
- **Senior & Friends**
9:30-11:30am
- **GEMS Color Run**
9:30-12:00pm

Sunday, Sep 22

- **Worship**
8:30 & 10:30am
- **Children's Church**
8:30 & 10:30am
- **Sunday School**
9:45-10:15am
- **Choir Rehearsal**
9:45-10:15am
- **Faith Talk for HS**
9:45-10:15am

Monday, Sep 23

- **Senior Circuit**
10:30-11:30am
- **Men's Life Bible Study**
6:45-8pm
- **Monday Night Women's Bible Study**
6:45-8:00pm

Tuesday, Sep 24

- **Senior Circuit**
10:30-11:30am
- **Tuesday Afternoon Women's Bible Study**
2:00-3:30pm

[Sunday Worship Folder](#)

[Watch Sermons](#)

[Submit Prayer Request](#)

[Email Church Office](#)

[Registrations](#)

[Room Reservation Request](#)

[Contact A Stephen Minister](#)