

First Reformed Church

August 31, 2025

Needs: Youth Co-Music Leader

Education Kickoff will be Sunday, September 7, following the worship service. We will serve taverns, hotdogs, potato salad, chips, and beverages. Following the meal, you can enjoy carnival games and bouncy houses. Please plan to join us in celebrating our youth programs! Sign-up sheets are on the Opportunities Table.

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS:

Whispering Heights: *Marilyn Van Holland, Clara Bannick, Joyce Van Berkum, Viola Van Driel.*
Pleasant Acres, Hull: *Duane Ver Mulm, Milt Swier.* Fellowship Village, Inwood: *Jeanette Van Beek.*
Riverview Ridge: *Lucy Ymker, Judi Dorhout, Marv & Ella Hoogendoorn, Wayne & Judi Groeneweg, Wilma Schneider.*

CHURCH SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES:

Brian & Elizabeth Bruxvoort in AK; *Amy and Seung Kim* in Bangladesh; *Brian and Donna Renes*, in Sioux Center; *Dr. Yohannes Bekele* in Ethiopia, *Josh & Alison Perkins* in United Arab Emirates.

Community Announcements

Rock Valley MomCo will begin September 3 and will meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. This year we will meet in the mornings from 9-10:30 at Trinity CRC in Rock Valley. You can register at either meeting in September or by contacting Lindsay Den Hartog 712-470-5286.

Rock Valley MomCo is also in need of multiple attendants for nursery and 2 Kidsco leaders (3–5-year-olds). Both positions are paid please contact Lindsay Den Hartog 712-470-5286 if interested. 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month Sept-April.

Our next support group will be on Wednesday, Sept 3 at 10:00 in the Learning Center at Hegg. This support group is open to anyone that lives or cares for someone that suffers from Memory Loss.

You are invited! The Triumphant Quartet is coming to Trinity CRC on Sunday, September 7, at 6pm for a special concert! They deliver the powerful message of the Gospel through word and song that engages audiences of all ages. A free will offering will be received for Rock Valley Flood Relief. Invite your friends and neighbors!

Coffee Break Bible Study is excited to start the fall session and women of ALL ages are encouraged to come and explore God's Word together! Registration will be Tuesday, Sept. 9th, from 10 to 11 AM at First CRC. Come pick up your Exodus study guide and if you have young children, you can register them for Nursery, Little Lambs, or Story Hour! We meet on Tuesdays with our first lesson on September 16th. Light snack & coffee time starts at 9:45 AM with small group study from 10 to 11 AM. For questions or more information, please contact Tricia Mulder at #605-310-5708.

Sioux Center Health and Community Health Partners of Sioux County are hosting a Keys to Dementia Prevention class. This program is designed for people ages 50+ with no previous dementia diagnosis. Learn the 10 lifestyle factors that are proven to prevent or delay dementia. The class will begin September 18, running every Thursday from 1:30-3:30pm until November 20 at Crown Pointe – The Gathering Place. Please note, participants do not need to be Crown Pointe residents. During the 10-class program, enjoy brain healthy snacks, educational materials and one-on-one time with

subject-matter experts. Register by calling CHP at 712-737-2971 or email angela.loutsch@siouxcountychn.org. There is a \$40 fee per participant, but \$20 will be refunded to any registrant that completes 8+ classes. Registration deadline is September 12.

We're excited to host experts from the Iowa Cancer Registry to learn about cancer trends, statistics, and risk factors in Sioux County. You are invited to attend this informative presentation focusing on cancer in Sioux County. The event is a part of the statewide "99 Counties Project" and will be Monday, September 22 from 12:00-1:00pm. RSVP to attend online via Zoom or in-person at the Sioux Center Public Library (75 person maximum). Contact Community Health Partners if you have any questions about this exciting event at <https://canceriowa.news/Sioux>

Kingdom Boundaries present their Annual Fall Banquet, Tuesday September 30th at the Carmel Reformed Church. Doors open at 4:00, fellowship and auction 5:00, Catered Dinner 6:00 and Program/Live Auction at 7:00PM.

ELDERS:

Myron Van Ginkel '25
Marlan Hoogendoorn '25
Berwyn Van Kekerix '26
Dave Bliek '26
Rod Netten '27
Daryl Scholten '27

DEACONS:

Matt Vande Kamp '25
Jesse Van Egdome '25
Weston De Jager '26
Ross Van Kekerix '26
D. J. Van't Hul '27
Brandon Van Middendorp '27

2025 ELDER & DEACON CALLING PAIRS:

Berwyn Van Kekerix & Weston De Jager	Baatz – Claussen
Dave Bliek & Ross Van Kekerix	De Jager - Juffer
Daryl Scholten & D. J. Van't Hul	Kelderman - Miller
Rod Netten & Brandon Van Middendorp	Netten – Van Berkum
Myron Van Ginkel & Matt Vande Kamp	Van Den Top - Vande Vegte
Marlan Hoogendoorn & Jesse Van Egdome	Vander Heul - Zeutenhorst

CONSISTORY OFFICERS & COMMITTEES FOR 2025:

Vice-President: Myron Van Ginkel
Asst. Vice President: Dave Bliek
Audio: Kevin Bouwman
Chairman of Deacons: Jesse Van Egdome
Clerk: Marlan Hoogendoorn
Deacon Clerk: Weston De Jager
Treasurer for Church Ministry Fund: Brandon Van Middendorp, Matt Vande Kamp (assistant)
Sacraments: Rod Netten, Berwyn Van Kekerix
Benevolent: Ross Van Kekerix, Jesse Van Egdome
Executive Committee: Myron Van Ginkel, Marlan Hoogendoorn, Dave Bliek, Jesse Van Egdome, Matt Vande Kamp
Kids Block Reps: Dave Bliek, Ralph Bousema, Gary Miller
Property: Ralph Bousema, Myron Van Ginkel, Kevin Bouwman
Church Use: Sheri Bousema, Marlan Hoogendoorn
Personnel Committee: Jesse Van Egdome, Marlan Hoogendoorn, Tim Landegent
Women's Ministries Service Reps: Ashley Vis, Jodi Van Beek
Education: Julie Vande Kamp, Marlan Hoogendoorn, Ross Van Kekerix, Steve Van Den Top, Micah Vis
Youth: Julie Vande Kamp
VBS: Ashley Vis, Julie Landegent
Missions: Dan & Jen Taylor, Wilbur & Madelyn Vander Heul, Ryan Blankespoor, Daryl Scholten, D.J. Van't Hul.
Music & Worship: Brittany Wiebe, Duane Middle, Weston De Jager
Nursery: Kayla Van't Hul, Julie Landegent
Decorating: Deb Kempema, Sandi Scholten, Sheri Bousema

Not Everything Happens for a Reason

Have you ever found yourself, in the midst of unimaginable grief, pain, heartache, or despair, wondering how you are going to make it through another day? Wondering where your next breath is going to come from?

Your world has crumbled beneath you and has left you feeling shattered, empty, and hopeless.

And then a well-meaning friend or family member comes along and drops the infamous “*Everything happens for a reason*” bomb. You smile kindly and nod. That’s all you can do to keep yourself from punching them in the face.

You can’t possibly imagine a reason for what just happened.

The more you stew about a probable reason for your pain, the angrier you become. You try desperately to

make sense of a situation that won't ever make sense. You reach for answers, but none come.

I spent years searching for answers, trying to find reasons that would bring an end to my pain. I thought that if I could find the cause, I could treat the condition. But what I found through years of searching, experiencing, and living is that often there is no reason for why tragedy has occurred.

Sometimes bad things happen for no reason other than we are human beings having a human experience.

Pain, heartache, grief, loss, disease, and death are inevitable parts of the human experience.

We hear people say "Life dealt me a crappy hand" as if pain and hardships are not the norm. We assume that life is supposed to be easy and when things don't go our way, we feel like we have been wronged. Human beings seem to have an innate sense of entitlement. We think that we are owed a pain free existence. But the truth is that *human beings are not exempt from the human experience. And struggle is an innate part of the human experience.* None of us are exceptions to this rule. **We all struggle. We all suffer. We all experience pain, heartache, and loss.** And sometimes, there's just no reason other than we are human and pain is a part of the process.

I recently had a conversation with a friend who was struggling to find peace with "God's plan" for her life including the recent death of a loved one. "How could this possibly be God's will?" she asked. Here's the thing about God's will. Are you ready for this? Listen closely:

God's will is not the path we walk, but rather how we walk the path. God's plan is never for someone to have cancer. God's will is not for an innocent child to be abused or murdered. God's will is not for mass shootings. God's will is not chronic pain, illness, disability, or death. *God's will is not an event that happens to us, it's how we respond to what happens.*

God's will for us is to walk with Him through the cancer. Through the abuse. Through the death. Through the illness. God's will is for us to draw close to him in the midst of pain. *God's will is for us to use our painful life events to carry his message of hope, grace, forgiveness, and mercy.*

God's plan was never for pain to be part of the human experience. His plan was for us to live in peace and harmony with Him. The human experience became painful when sin entered the world. Our own free will weaved threads of tragedy, loss, heartache, and pain into the human experience

God is not responsible for our pain. We are not responsible for our pain. What happened in the Garden of Eden is responsible for the human condition. And the human condition is hard wired for pain and suffering. God is not causing us to hurt. He is hurting with us. What we do with our hurt is what matters. How we handle tragedy is what brings purpose into our pain.

There's hardly ever a justifiable reason for the bad things that happen in life. Tragic loss is not laced with inherent specs of good. I used to get so mad when people would say, "you can find good in every situation." That's just not true. There is no good in murder or abuse. *We have to create the good. We have to choose to respond in a way that brings good into an impossible situation. We have to choose to give purpose and meaning to our suffering.*

Not everything happens for a reason. But in everything that happens, there can be a reason to bring hope and healing to others. God can use our pain for a greater good if we choose to let him in.

Proverbs 14:29, Proverbs 15:1, Ecclesiastes 7:9, Ephesians 4:26-27, Colossians 3:8

Materials Needed

Can of soda

Object Lesson

Good Morning boys and girls,

Well, you have been back in school for a few weeks.....is everyone loving school? And, today Sunday School starts! Fall sports have started, maybe some of you have piano lessons, basketball, volleyball, or dance and gymnastics....it is just a busy time all at once.

Sometimes in all the busyness we get tired which makes us upset or angry.

It's times like this we need to be extra careful about sinning. Sinning is when we do something that goes against God's commandments for our life, like fighting, and saying unkind things. Do you ever have days where you are really frustrated?

(Take out can of soda.)

Let's pretend we are a can of soda. You wake up early in the morning, you're still tired and not ready to wake up: Shake, Shake.

The tag on your shirt is itchy and the seams on his socks are not JUST RIGHT: Shake, shake!

You get on the bus and it's noisy: Shake, Shake.

At lunch, no one sits with you and they served something you don't like: Shake, Shake.

At recess, they didn't play what you wanted to play: Shake, Shake.

Now your back on the bus, where the big kids are yelling and it smells funny and it's hot and kids are too close and the seat is uncomfortable and you're hungry. Shake, Shake.

You finally walk in the front door, and mom or dad says, "How was your day?"

Guess what? You just opened that can.

What would happen if I opened this can? It would explode everywhere!

(Set the can down and make sure you give it at least a minute or two before picking it up again. It would be best if you test this before presenting it.)

So if you were are all angry like this can and you sin by getting in a fight or calling someone bad names it would be like opening this can and it spraying everywhere!

Sometimes what we need to do it walk away and pray and ask God to help us to calm down and not respond in sin.

(Take the can and open it. It should open normally now. Make this dramatic so the kids think it will spray everywhere.)

See all this can needed was a few moments of quiet and it calmed down and it could be opened without exploding. When we are angry or upset we too need a few moment so that we can react without sinning.