



# FELLOWSHIP FINDINGS

*Sully Christian Reformed Church*

*February 2012*

## February 5

AM Ecclesiastes 12:1-14 "Fear is also the Ending"

PM Romans 5:1-11 and Catechism Lord's Day 5  
"Hosting a Meal"

## February 12

AM Song of Songs 8:5-7 "Madly in Love"

PM Hebrews 2:5-18 and Catechism Lord's Day 6  
"Like His Brothers"

## February 19

AM Isaiah 42:1-9 "Servant King"

PM 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 and Catechism Lord's Day 7  
"Foolish Wisdom"

## February 26

AM Jeremiah 31:23-34 "Eating Sour Grapes"

PM Reverend John Gorter (Peoria CRC)

## AM Preaching Series

**Growing in Christ...Rooted in Scripture** is the title of our journey through the Bible. The title reminds us that no matter which story the Bible is telling it is whispering the name of Jesus Christ. And the more we desire to grow up in Christ the more our lives must be rooted in the whole of scripture. The full story of God's love for his people, his saving work, and our glorious hope in Christ is found in all the pages from Genesis to Revelation. Our journey continues...

## PM Preaching Series

*My Only Comfort:*

We turn our attention to the Heidelberg Catechism and listen to the comfort it presents from beginning to end.

## *Blessings Given and Received*

God is good and His goodness was made evident to our family during Junior's illness and recent passing. The tremendous outpouring of love shown by the community and church family through visits, prayers, cards, food, hugs and memorial gifts are greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Pastor Brian and Elder Loren Fopma for all their visits. Thanks also to the Ruth Circle for serving lunch.

Berdena Vos  
The Family of Junior Vos

We wish to thank our Church family for all the prayers, cards, memorials and food. We really appreciate all the kindness shown to our family at this time. What a wonderful comfort to know that he has reached his heavenly home. May God bless all of you!

James H. Nikkel family

We would like to thank everyone for their expressions of sympathy, cards, prayers and memorials at the time of our father & grandfather's death. It was greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank all those who took the time to visit Arie while he was in Long Term Care. It made his time there much more enjoyable. Thank You.

The children and grandchildren of Arie Lanser

## Footprints in the Sand

**One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky. In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand. Sometimes there were two sets of footprints, other times there were one set of footprints. This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life, when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat, I could see only one set of footprints. So I said to the Lord, "You promised me Lord, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always. But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there have only been one set of footprints in the sand. Why, when I needed you most, you have not been there for me?" The Lord replied, "The times when you have seen only one set of footprints, is when I carried you."**

**Mary Stevenson**

The original "Footprints in the Sand" poem was written in 1936 and has given me great comfort over the years as it reemphasizes the fact that God is always walking beside me or carrying me when times are tough. As I visited Megan's grave one night I reflected on this poem and ended up writing my own version of "Footprints" as a thank you to all of you, my church family.

## **My Own Footprints Dream**

*(Dedicated to my church family at the Sully Christian Reformed Church)*

By Megan's grave on a Thursday night  
On the seashore of life I took time to reflect  
There my own "Footprints" vision came into sight  
How God's love for me my life did affect

In the sand, two sets of footprints so near  
In those times, life was good, no troubles at all  
No pain or sorrow, each day filled with cheer  
My faith strengthened, when on God I did call

In the sand, two set of footprints so far apart  
In those times, rebellion, I tried my own way  
Forgot about God, soon pain and trouble did start  
Deep scars, sorrows, and woes, a life of dismay

In the sand, one set of footprints so sure so true  
In those times, God carried me as trials arose  
Through trials and pains of this life, my faith grew  
God lifted me during those trials, out of the lows

Then at the time when Megan was ill and died  
What I saw on the seashore, I could not explain  
Footprints covered the beach, confused, sadly I cried  
I thought You'd have carried me! Please God, explain

It was the worst point of my life of this I am sure  
When I needed You most, why did You run?  
I thought You'd stay near me, that Your love was pure  
God smiled and calmly replied, "My precious child My son"

"Your burden was great, you needed people to share.  
I was there the whole time and My love remained true.  
But Megan's trial was more than one soul could bear  
So at that time I used your church family to carry you."

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michael j. hoogeveen 01/05/2011

We remember James H. Nikkel

Tunis and Nellie Stek Nikkel welcomed the third of their ten children, James H., into their home on November 10, 1923. Jim spent most of his school years in Lynnville. He was baptized and made his profession of faith in the Sully CRC.

On April 8, 1945, he was united in marriage with Anna Mae De Cook in Sully. Three children were born into this family. Jim loved the land and worked the farm, raising Polled Hereford cattle. He served on the FSA board, the Sully Telephone Association, and the Sully Christian School Board, where he was actively engaged in the planning and building of the current SCS facilities. He was a life-long member of the Sully Christian Reformed Church.

Jim enjoyed making stained glass pieces for craft shows, woodworking and gardening. Using his carpentry skills, he built their home in Sully, and he spent many hours working on his yard. When his children were involved in 4-H, he spent a lot of time at the county fair in Colfax. He enjoyed attending livestock shows, and he and Kern took a fun trip to a show in Denver. Guess who stayed home and did the milking. The grandchildren have some fond memories of Grandpa. Jim took them out hunting for hickory nuts and walnuts. They brought them home, and Great-grandpa De Cook spent much of the winter shelling them. They really had fun when Grandpa attached a long board on a hydraulic lift to the front of the tractor, and the kids could ride there and spray the beans. I don't imagine our government officials would look kindly on that. One of the girls said it was as good as a ride at the fair. The kids loved to play games with Grandpa. Did you know that Jim was a good chocolate covered cherry maker? That was a special Christmas project with one of his granddaughters. And then there was Jim and his 5 gallon bucket. It was a favorite stool of his, and Grandma might even find him in the garage sitting on his bucket fast asleep. I can tell you that I witnessed Jim and his bucket as well. When I am in my back yard, I have a clear view of their garden. Jim would be on that bucket, just looking things over. His tractor would be nearby. About the time I would decide that I should go over and see if he was okay, he would get on that tractor and head for the basement garage. I will miss watching him next summer.

On Dec. 9, 2011, Jim passed into his eternal home. He had been a resident of the Heritage Manor in Newton for several months. Funeral services were held at the Sully CRC on Dec. 13, with Pastor Brian Ochsner officiating. Congregational hymns included "Because He Lives," "Amazing Grace," and "In Christ Alone," accompanied by Jodi De Vries. Honorary Bearers were Tim Hardeman and Jon Puls and Casket Bearers were Brent and Alex Van Der Kamp, Ryan, Jacob, David and Trevor Nikkel. Jana Van Der Kamp honored her grandpa with a fitting eulogy. A single red rose honored the memory of Kern. The closing song was "God Be With You Till We Meet Again." Interment was at the Sully Cemetery. Memorials were designated for the Gideons and The Back to God Hour.

Those left to honor Jim's memory include his wife, Anna Mae; and children Brenda (Darrel) Van Der Kamp; daughter-in-law Sandy; and Scott (Vicki) Nikkel, along with nine grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren; and other relatives and friends. Jim was preceded in death by his parents, his son Kern, and several brothers, sisters, and in-laws.

The Nikkel family experienced severe trials in the last months of 2011. It was a time of testing for them, and it was a time of reminder for us as a church family, that we need to be in prayer for all of those who are going through difficulties in life. And we pray that this family may have truly felt our prayers, and may they continue to feel a bond of fellowship.

In memory of Arie Lanser

On January 13, 1912, John and Elizabeth Bruxvoort Lanser welcomed a son, Arie John Lanser, the third of their twelve children into their home. He grew up on the family farm. Arie was baptized in the Sully CRC, and he made his profession of faith at the age of nineteen. He attended the Sully Christian grade school and graduated from the 8th grade.

Arie was united in marriage with Johanna Wielard in Pella, Iowa. Arie and Johanna were blessed with four children, and they raised their family on their farms in the Sully area. After they moved to Sully, Arie continued to go to the farm and the grandkids there would look out the window each morning to see if Grandpa's pickup was parked in the usual place.

Arie's grandchildren have fond memories of their grandpa. One of the granddaughters shared a birthday with Grandpa, and she cherishes that. Many of the grandchildren remember how both Grandpa and Grandma liked to play games with them. Arie enjoyed playing skip-bo, and up until a few weeks before his death, he still played the game with family and friends. Some other great memories included trips to the farm where they walked beans, and it could be ever so warm, but Grandpa still wore a long sleeved shirt and his bib overalls. Grandpa was willing to help fund a mission trip, or give spending money to a helpful child who picked up brush. (Anyone knows that you have to have a bit of cash when one goes to the fair.) Several told of riding with Grandpa on the tractor or in the combine, and Grandpa helped one of his grandsons skin the first squirrel he ever shot. But it is not only children and grandchildren who remembered him so fondly. Many of our fellow church members spoke of how, when they went to visit Arie, they were the ones who received the blessing. I was amazed at how he always remembered us by name. He was a man, who like the apostle Paul, had learned to be content, in no matter what circumstance he found himself.

Arie served our church as a council member, and he served as a board member of the Sully Christian School. When our church had a men's society, he attended faithfully.

On December 14, 2011, Arie entered his heavenly home. Those who cherish his memory are his children: Ilene (Marvin) Meppelink, Gladys (Russ) Stravers, Melvin (Wanda) and Arvin(Ronda) Lanser. There are fifteen grandchildren, forty great-grandchildren, and four great-great grandchildren, along with other family members and friends. His Long Term Care family will also miss him. He was preceded in death by his wife, a son-in-law (Marvin Vande Voort), and several brothers, sisters, and in-laws.

Funeral services were held at the Sully CRC on December 19, 2011. Pastor Brian Ochsner officiated, with Lynnette Christensen at the organ. Special music was provided by the Sounds of Praise: "I Did It All for You" and "What a Day That Will Be." Congregational hymns were "All the Way My Savior Leads Me," the song he chose for his birthday song, and "To God Be the Glory." At the conclusion of the service, the organist played "May All Who Come Behind Us Find Us Faithful." That is the theme song when the extended Lanser family has a reunion. Casket Bearers were Ken and Kevin Vande Voort, Jeff, Greg, and Phil Stravers, Eric Lanser, Jason Allbee and Blake Kornis. Interment was at the Sully Cemetery. Memorials were designated for the Sully Christian School.

Some in our church family have been called 'home' at a very early age, some in the prime of life, and others like Arie, who reached a very advanced age. All must be ready because we know neither the day nor the hour. May all of us share in the grief and the good memories, and may we all be found faithful as we continue our walk here on earth.

Each month *Crossroad Connection*, the web radio ministry of Crossroad Bible Institute, offers more great messages, interviews, letters from prison and so much more as a voice for restorative justice. The weekly 15-minute programs are available to listen to at [www.cbi.fm](http://www.cbi.fm) and on KCWN 99.9 FM - Sunday at 7:45 AM

**Week of February 5: PRISON CHURCH'S ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY** The pastor of New Life Prison Church joins the program on that ministry's one-year anniversary.

**Week of February 12: PLANTING SEEDS AT ANY AGE**

A ninety-two-year-old woman reached out to a man in prison and planted a seed of God's Word that has blossomed into the Justice Ministry of Crossroad Bible Institute.

**Week of February 19: HOW TO AVOID CONGREGATIONAL CONFLICT** The director of Shalem Mental Health Network explains how restorative justice can ease conflict within schools and churches.

**Week of February 26: DOES THE PENALTY FIT THE CRIME?** A Mississippi judge went above sentencing guidelines for a woman who did not "check the box" on her food stamp application.

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## *Council Clippings*

1. Angels in Aprons served dinner to the council members and their spouses at 6 pm
2. General Fund \$10,919.22
3. Collection Fund \$3,169.51
4. Benevolent Fund \$25,004.78
5. Building and Grounds \$18,792.69
6. Worship Committee- a new choir director is needed
7. Approved new Care Team and Committee lists
8. Approved having 2 pot-luck dinners, one this spring and one in the fall.
9. The weather policy was reviewed. It will be in the bulletin. WHO radio will be the main media source.
10. Amanda Arkema will be given time to tell the congregation about her work.
11. Jana Laverman's membership has been received from Grace church in Des Moines

Dear members of the Sully CRC,

As we begin another year, we would like to extend an invitation to anyone in the congregation to ask questions regarding giving at our church. Members can bring questions and concerns, or requests for funds, to any of the deacons in person or to the monthly deacon meetings that are held the first Monday of every month. Our monthly deacon meetings are where we count the contributions to the budget that are collected. We also set the next month's offering schedule and consider requests for funds or discuss benevolence items and other service items of our church. Our meetings typically start at 7:00 with visitors welcome after 8:00.

At our annual congregational meeting in November, our annual budget was voted on and approved with totals for 2012 as follows: Building & Grounds: \$22,000, Missions: \$27,500, Sully CRC Congregational Expenses: \$195,005.28, Classical Expenses: \$30,498.00, Synodical Expenses: \$79,762.80. These expenses bring our total budget to \$354,766.08. Budget giving of 2012 will be divided as follows; Missions: 8%, Building & Grounds: 6%, Ministry Shares (Classical & Synodical): 31%, and Congregational Expenses: 55%. All funds received in the budget envelopes will be divided according to these percentages unless a member designates otherwise. If a member wishes to designate their giving for that month to a particular part of the budget, they can write their wishes on their envelope and the deacons will allocate the funds accordingly.

As a church body, we were able to fulfill our obligations within our church and Classis. Unfortunately we did not collect enough to pay our full obligation to Synod. For 2011, we paid \$50,000, which is 66% of our budgeted responsibility to Synod. We are encouraged that this past year our church family was able to contribute a greater percentage than the past and would like the congregation to continue to be cheerful and faithful givers to reach 100%!

Dividing our total budget out among our 312 members gives a per member responsibility of \$1,137.07 (\$2,274.14/couple) for 2012. Our church depends on your contributions to the budget. Giving more than the per member amount helps cover the expenses of those in our congregation that may be experiencing hardship and are unable to give what is needed. We would like to encourage use of the giving brochures for a better description of the budget and the offerings we take. We welcome all questions from the congregation.

Giving to the budget is part of our responsibility as members, much like a membership, to cover the costs that this organization incurs. Giving of our first fruits to God should include this earthly organization, but should represent a heart that gives as it is blessed.

Giving beyond the per member responsibility to our church, giving to the weekly offerings, and giving to other organizations that serve the body of Christ on this earth are all ways to cheerfully return God's treasures to Him.

In Christ's service,  
The Sully CRC deacons

# Growing in Grace

"But grow in the grace of our Lord."

2 Peter 3:18

## February 2012



**\*\*\* Happy Valentine's Day! \*\*\***

Most people think of Valentine's Day as a fun day when people show their love for their friends, family and loved ones. They give gifts and cards to the ones they love. They say silly rhymes about love and talk about cupid's arrows. Some people are full of hugs and kisses on Valentine's Day. Lots of kids make fancy Valentine's boxes and exchange cute cards. They might even have a yummy Valentine's Day treat at school. Or, maybe they play some fun Valentine's Day games at home. It's a lot of fun for everyone. But, did you ever think about where love comes from? Who taught us about love? Who made us able to love?

It's really pretty simple. We love because God first loved us. Listen to this verse: (1 John 4:19), "We love because he first loved us." He is the one who started this whole love thing. He designed it. God IS love! He is all about love. He showed us how to love each other. He gives us the Bible to tell us how to love him, and love each other. He puts love in our hearts when we become a follower of Jesus. He is like a fountain that keeps pouring out his love on us, and like soft rain that pours down his love on us. Receiving his love helps our love grow. His love is so awesome and so great. When we learn about his love, we want to love too. He was the first one to love, and he will always love us. While people are sometimes stingy with their love, and aren't very good at loving, God's love for us never runs out! His love just keeps coming, more and more...more than we even know!

And do you know what else? We can't to do anything to earn God's love. He already loves us. There's nothing you can do to make him love you more...He already loves you more than anyone else ever will. None of us did anything to deserve his love....he just loves us anyway. We can never repay God for all the love he has shown us, so remember this Valentine's Day not only to show your friends and family love, but don't forget about the one who loved us first... and showed us how to love!



# *Giving of our Gifts and Talents*

## Coffee Servers

- February 5** Gary and Lynnette Christensen  
Alex and Jentri Van Wyngarden
- February 12** Ed and Judy Van Kooten  
Scotty and Brenda De Nooy
- February 19** Jamie and Michelle Van Kooten  
Dwight and Glenda Vander Leest
- February 26** Kevin and Brenda Van Kooten  
Randy and Jodi De Vries
- March 4** Ken and Charlene Van Maanen  
Ed and Joyce Dieleman
- March 11** Kevin and Melanie Van Maanen  
Dan and Sharla Dunsbergen
- March 18** Rachel and Matt Van Maanen  
Alvin and Mary Fopma
- March 25** Jerry and Bert Van Sant  
Carroll and Marla Fopma

*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.*

## Greeters

- February 5** Eugene and Marla Sjaardema  
Wes and Cindy Laverman
- February 12** Rod and Leanne Jansen  
Jeff and Sue Pastoor
- February 19** Elders
- February 26** Duane and Nicole Olivier  
Melvin and Marilyn Jansen

## Nursery Attendants

### **February 5**

- | <u>A.M.</u>      | <u>P.M.</u>   |
|------------------|---------------|
| Brenda Vos       | Pam Vos       |
| Sheila Pleima    | Shannon Vos   |
| Erica Van Soelen | Sierra Pleima |
| Amy Dunsbergen   |               |

### **February 12**

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Judy Beyer    | Kelsie Johnson  |
| Marla Vos     | Graham Howerzyl |
| Emma Pleima   | Brenden Six     |
| Kelly Van Wyk |                 |

### **February 19**

- |              |                       |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Krista Fopma | Julie Van Wyk(Lauren) |
| Julie Jansen | Miranda Nikkel        |
| Abby Pleima  | Raeann Fopma          |
| Sarah Fopma  |                       |

### **February 26**

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Rachel Van Maanen | Jacie Kramer      |
| Brenda Rolffs     | Josh Fopma        |
| Tricia Fopma      | Connor Dunsbergen |
| Kara Van Wyk      |                   |

# To God be the Glory

## Offering

### SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

- February 5** Sully Christian School  
**February 12** New Life Prison Church  
**February 19** Benevolence  
**February 26** Education Fund /  
Seminary Envelope Offering

#### **Our Mission at Sully CRC is to**

*Reach* people with the love of Christ.

*Renew* people in the Spirit's power.

*Respond* to God's love by worshiping Him and by caring for and serving others.

### LETTERS TO MISSIONARIES

- Tim & Desiree Hardeman to Mike & Megan Ribbens  
Ryan & Jana Laverman to Cristine Roos  
Corey & Laura Van Kooten to Matthew & Laura Lanser  
John & Lyn Howerzyl to Joel & Jeanie Huyser  
Dale & Julie Van Wyk to Tom & Cheryl Soerens  
Larry & Sharon Van Wyk to Jim & Josephine Zylstra  
Rick & Staci Jansen to Steve & Tanya Tiesenga  
Verlan & Sally Van Wyk to Jung Suh  
Rod & Leanne Jansen to Verlyn & Carol Schaap

### REST HOME SCHEDULE

#### **February 12 Heritage Manor – 2:30 PM**

Stan Hoogeveen, Norm Schuring, Jeff Pastoor

#### **February 19 Newton Care Center - 2:00 PM**

Merl Van Zante, Russ Stravers, Randy De Vries

#### **February 26 St. Francis Manor - 2:30 PM**

Frank Van Soelen, Scotty De Nooy, John Kramer

*NOTE: The first person listed is the leader of the group and should contact each member. If the group is unable to go, please notify the committee so the nursing home can be notified. Thank you.*

Clarence and Judy Van Zee 527-3619

Judson and Pam Vos 594-3700

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 1 Marilyn Jansen  
February 2 Jared Laverman  
February 3 Mary Arkema  
February 4 Nathan Van Wyk  
February 6 Melissa Van Kooten  
February 7 Glenn Zylstra  
Verlan Van Wyk  
February 8 Craig Zylstra  
Stanley Fopma  
February 9 Leanne Jansen  
Lindsay Golliet  
Kody Jansen  
February 11 Barb Hoogeveen  
February 12 Lloyd Van Zante  
Mike Van Soelen  
Matthew Van Maanen  
Natasha Nikkel  
Tyler Van Soelen  
February 13 Melvin Jansen  
Linda Zylstra  
February 14 Daryl Menninga  
February 15 Mindy Six  
Jennifer Lowry  
February 16 Roger Zylstra  
Doug Van Zee  
Korey Van Wyk  
Derek Van Soelen  
February 17 Clarence Van Zee  
Pamela Vos  
February 19 Brian Beyer  
February 21 Leland Fynaardt  
Marlene Bruxvoort  
Brenda De Nooy  
Brandon Van Wyk  
Blake Veenstra  
Ezekiel Vander Leest  
February 22 Bernard Arkema  
Reva Van Wyk (85)  
February 23 Mary Fopma  
February 24 Jordon Van Zante  
Jaden Vos  
Kristin Boender  
Alexa Dunsbergen

February 25 Lynnette Christensen  
February 26 Jerry Van Sant  
Shelby Van Baale  
February 27 Ed Van Kooten  
Denise Arkema  
February 28 Frank Van Soelen  
Brandon Van Baale



## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

February 1 Bill & Cora Scholten (69)  
February 8 Jerry & Bert Van Sant  
February 11 Roger & Marlene Bruxvoort (40)  
February 13 Ron & Nancy Swank  
February 14 Marvin & Rayma Rozendaal  
February 18 Duane & Mary Arkema (35)  
February 20 Ron & Judy Beyer  
February 21 Bob & Marilyn Van Soelen  
February 23 Russ & Gladys Stravers (50)  
February 25 Norm & Betty Schuring

