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the MESSENGER

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In a recent sermon, I highlighted the earliest description of church life from Acts 2, which says, *“they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer”* (Acts 2:42). And in addition to that essential description, Acts also mentions that they *“ate together with glad and sincere hearts”* (2:46). Yes, the spread was probably a bit different, but it’s worth taking note that “Coffee Hour” is as old as the church itself!

And far from being just a cute little Bible quip, the fact is that the Bible frequently ties food to the gathering of God’s people. We know Jesus often taught around dinner tables and that more than once he took care that people who heard him not only had their souls but also their stomachs filled. Jesus understood our deep design by God, that eating and drinking together is a simple path to opening our hearts to one another.

Which is why I want to thank the many of you who have been part of helping us offer a weekly time of fellowship at our Coffee Hour, that as people sit down with each other after worship or grab something quick before heading to prayer or study or class, we share in the generosity of brothers and sisters who supply a little something so that we too can eat *“together with glad and sincere hearts.”* At the same time, knowing that Kickoff Sunday is upon us, I wanted to renew the invitation and review the responsibilities for any others who may want to join in this part of our church life.

Hosting Coffee Hour involves 15-20 minutes of preparation before worship and leaving the service about 10 minutes early to prepare to serve. We want to make sure Coffee Hour serving is accessible to anyone who’d like to be a part of it. So, what’s the first thing you need to know? You don’t need to be an artisanal baker! Simple things are plenty appreciated – cheese and crackers, veggies and dip, fruits or nuts. And if there are cookies and bars you love to share, those are welcome too. Secondly, Coffee Hour doesn’t need to break the bank. Volunteers should plan to serve around 50 people each Sunday, but if you bring your receipts, we are able to make reimbursements. A receipt box is available on the counter by the south doorway to the kitchen. Thirdly, you also do not need to be a coffee expert! A coffee-making explainer video is available on our Randolph First Reformed YouTube channel, but we also have volunteers who are prepared to make the pre-worship coffee if you are unable. Finally, if you have not volunteered with Coffee Hour before, Joelle Baehr will join you your first Sunday to help and answer questions. For those wanting to sign up, the sheet is on the shelf in the narthex. If you have any further questions, you can text Joelle Baehr at 763-453-5245.

God’s Kingdom come, Pastor Luke



Inside this issue.....

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- 3 August Consistory
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- 8 September Calendar



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

- 3 Lukas Alvin
Diane Hicks
- 4 Nick Leystra
- 6 Dave Missall
- 10 Aaron Retzlaff
Brian Anderson
- 11 Jeff Hookstead
Randy Paul
Wayne Zuhlke
- 12 Jana Roberts
Margaret VerHage
Gerry Deakin
- 13 Tessa Reed
- 14 John L. VerHage
- 17 Brittany Omen
Pam Alderden
- 20 Jaime Kok
- 24 Al Tillema
- 25 Violet Saeman
- 26 John Stampfli
Bodhe Stampfli
- 27 Derick Alsum
- 28 Chelsey Omen
Paige Meyer
- 30 Gordon Vander Velde
Kaylee VanBuren

Happy Anniversary

- 3 Duane & Debbie Wells Beekman (20th)
- 12 Nick & Aubrynn Leystra (5th)
- 14 Dave & Darlene Missall
- 16 Darren & Jerilyn Alsum (25th)
- 19 Allen & Karen Van Herwaarden (50th)
- 20 Gene & Linda Wiersma
- 21 David & Michelle Retzlaff (40th)
Jared & Jessica Spors
- 22 Scott & Amy Reed
Denis & Diane Homan
Barry & Niki VanBeek
- 27 Dennis & Susan Vander Werff

Serving the Congregation

Date	Nursery
Sept. 7	Jamie Weaver
Sept. 14	Annika Reed
Sept. 21	Deb Cupery
Sept. 28	Amy Vredevelde
Kids Church	
Sept. 14	Amy, Tessa & Vince Reed
Sept. 21	Tessa R. Emma G. Lydia VB.
Sept. 28	Holly & Saige Pfeffer Harold Banneck

If your birthday or anniversary is missing or wrong, please contact Jana at 210-2784 or 1strandolphoffice@gmail.com

August Consistory Minutes

Consistory Meeting August 11, 2025 - 7:00pm

Present: Pastor Luke, John VerHage, Mary Paul, Rita Hookstead, Bob Johnson, Ryan Alvin, Mike Grieger, Darren Alsum, Jason Stiemsma, Hugh Roberts

Devotion and Opening Prayer – Bob Johnson

PAVE Domestic Abuse Shelter Presentation – Diane Homan and Angela Rheingans:

- Served 1200 people in 2023: -69 sexual assault survivors. 27% men/73% women.
- Only Dual Shelter in the area: sexual assault and domestic abuse
- Handouts provided: possible donation options – both financially and service options
- October is Domestic Awareness Month – could we as a church do something in October for the shelter?

Pastor's Report – Pastor Luke:

- Groundbreaking for Gathering Place is in full swing as of today.
- Good survey results from recent grads regarding RCYF and Gathering Place
- Transition with Football is going well
- Exegesis Group is going well

Team Reports

Elders Report – Mary Paul

- Profession of Faith/New Member Groups planned
- Wedding Request Approval: Morgan Gove/Lucas Miller

Finance Report – Bob Johnson –

General Fund: \$122,277.45

Benevolent Fund: \$370,095.188 (Gathering Place: \$326,218.08)

Building Fund: \$74,437.22 – (Sign: \$31,483.98)

Education Report – John VerHage

- Kick off Sunday, Sept 13 – Dig Into the Word. Shirley will be serving dirt cakes.
- All teaching staff has been covered and Shirley will be available if needed
- Kids Church will begin on Sept 14. Amy will be using the new streaming service: RightNow
- Catechism beings September 17 – snack coordination
- August 24 teacher meetings for all youth classes and Catechism. Will also review Safe Church Policy at this time

Decorating Team: Nothing New

June 2025 Financial Report.....

General Fund:

Offerings	\$12,255.20
Disbursements	\$14,511.38

Benevolent Fund:

General Offering	\$ 1435.00
Gathering Place	\$76,100.00
Special Offering	\$ 635.00
-Disbursements	

Fisher of Men	\$ 100.00
Autumn Rain-Pollasch	\$ 250.00
Emily Dykstra	\$ 325.00
PIM Shares	\$ 3937.35
Salvation Army	\$ 235.00

Building Fund:

Offerings	\$ 250.00
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August Consistory Cont.

Mission Report – Ryan Alvin

- Right after Labor Day Gathering Place will start to be framed. Continuing to work on a lot of paperwork and putting together schedules to keep everything in a timely manner.
- All payments will be approved by Deacons and Lien Waivers, must be completed and Insurance Certificates will be required.
- Emily Dykstra - CRU will be presenting on August 24.

Property – Jason Stiemsma

- Parsonage Boiler is the original and will be getting quotes to install a new one...not urgent, but it needs to be done.

Personnel Report – Pastor Luke

- Proposal for Youth Group Board. Consistory motioned and approved to create a board.
- Motioned and 2nd to have board member become treasurer for RCYF. Rita handed over checkbook and file folder.
- Reviewed Youth Director role and contract, prepared offer for contract renewal.

Additional Business: Discussed where our church is going within the RCA. Greater Consistory responses from the summer: 2/3 directed toward Alliance Reformed Church, 1/3 remain in RCA for now. Based on responses and conversations with the Greater Consistory, Pastor's recommendation is to start seriously investigating the Alliance of Reformed Churches. Pastor also recommended the church maintain its slow pace in this process, allowing as many people as to be informed as possible before holding Consistory and congregational votes to transfer denominations.

MSC to adjourn. Closing prayer offered by Pastor Luke

Thank You and Events

THANK YOU to all that donated school supplies. When I delivered the items to the Randolph School District, the Teacher Care Fund mentioned that their shelves were getting pretty low, so they were very happy with the donations! Your generosity is much appreciated!!
-Shirley Schueller
Sisters Keepers



**Youth Group
Labor Day Pie Stand
Monday, September 1
11-1pm**

This is one of our biggest fundraisers, and we appreciate your support!



Jigsaw Puzzles Available

The Covenant Christian

Resource Center has five boxes of primarily 1000-piece jigsaw puzzles. Some puzzles with missing pieces will be discarded, but may be used for craft purposes.

A puzzle exchange is scheduled for October. For questions or to request puzzles prior to that date, please contact Mary Paul.

SEPTEMBER

Surrendering Control

1. Proverbs 3:5-6
2. Matthew 6:33
3. Luke 9:23
4. Psalm 46:10
5. Matthew 11:28-30
6. Galatians 2:20
7. James 4:7
8. Romans 12:1-2
9. Philippians 4:6-7
10. 1 Peter 5:6-7
11. Isaiah 55:8-9
12. Jeremiah 10:23
13. Romans 8:28
14. John 15:5
15. Isaiah 26:3-4
16. Psalm 37:5
17. Luke 22:42
18. Psalm 55:22
19. Colossians 3:2-3
20. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
21. Isaiah 41:10
22. John 3:30
23. Matthew 6:25-27
24. Psalm 31:14-15
25. Romans 6:13
26. Job 11:13-15
27. John 14:27
28. Philippians 1:21
29. Romans 8:6
30. Psalm 34:4
31. Isaiah 40:31

[Get The Free Reading Plan Printables](#)



Fishers of Men Newsletter



August 2025

Julie Claassen, Director

Life at Refuge Ranch

The Apostle Paul expressed the following in his letter to the church of Thessalonica: "How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?" (1 Thessalonians 3:9)

I couldn't have said it better regarding those who have come to serve the Lord here in Mexico through Fishers of Men!

This year we have been blessed by numerous visitors that have graced us with their love, partnership, hard work and friendship. Julie Robie, the mission coordinator for the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, her husband, Jeff, and family friend, Sarah, served both at the Ranch and on a one-day local Evangelistic Medical Mission Caravan. An exceptional team from Whiteford Wesleyan Church replaced the porch

roof on our home in preparation for the rainy season...

and played lots of soccer! What a special joy we experienced with the visit of my Uncle Ed, cousin Heather and her daughters who helped organize several storage areas and waterproof window frames, as well as spending time together as family. Haley, a godly young woman from Michigan, served at Refuge Ranch for a month helping in our home-school and spending lots of time with the kids. Lena, a Christlike young woman from New York, joined our staff in May for the entire summer and provides

invaluable help in homeschool and with daily life.

Now all we need is YOU! Come to Mexico...for a week, a month, a season or more and use your God-given giftings, talents, abilities, energy, personality and resources to build and strengthen His Kingdom! You, and we, will never be the same...and God will be glorified!



Evangelistic Medical Mission Caravans Update

We praise the Lord for the seven Evangelistic Medical Mission

Caravans that Fishers of Men has

carried out so far this year. As we prepare this newsletter, our longest and most challenging caravan for this year, August 11-19, is underway. God poured down His blessing upon our most recent caravan to the state of Morelos where, in only three days of ministry, we were able to provide 578 free services and 174 individuals prayed to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior!

We continue on, by God's grace and mercy, following in Jesus' footsteps...who "went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness" (Matthew 9:35).



Contact Information

Mailing address: Fishers of Men, P.O. Box 940, Shelbyville, IN 46176

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Email: fishersofmenmexico@gmail.com

Web site: fishersofmenmexico.org

Facebook: Fishers of Men - Mexico



GOD IS ON THE MOVE

Tom & Colleen Fraser/Campus Ministry

August 19, 2025

Dear First Reformed Church,

God IS on the move! This was the phrase we heard during our campus ministry time and during the larger assembly when all US ministries of Cru met together.

Shannon Compere (Exec Director for Campus Ministry - right) shared some incredible news. God is doing something special in Gen Z and Gen Alpha! EveryCampus is a partnership of **150 Christian Campus Ministries** started by Cru and Inter-Varsity. For Winter Conference, the Northeast was praying for 250 students to come. **600 students came!** They had to flex. The response to the gospel among Greeks has increased 15%. In Cru High School, every 2.9 times the gospel of Jesus is shared a person comes to Christ! It is the highest response in our 74-year history!



Bill Bright (Co-founder of Campus Crusade for Christ) was asked "Why did you focus on college students?" His answer was this: *"Throughout history, revolutions, reformation, rebellion, renaissance, revivals have come from college campuses and students. Give me college students and we change the world."*

Our new president, David Robbins (below), spoke to us several times, always pointing us to our intimacy with Jesus, to our Spirit-filled dependence, and to believing God for the fulfillment of the Great Commission. Below are three great quotes from David:



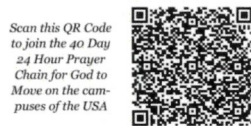
"I pray that our future is defined as a movement of people who keep falling in love with Jesus."

"We will never meet God in revival unless we first meet him in our brokenness."

"The heartbeat of our movement is a 22-year-old who has the audacity to think they can go to the world and change it."

When Cru started in 1951 as Campus Crusade for Christ, it was preceded by a period of 24-hour prayer in 15-minute slots by churches burdened for the campuses. Today Cru senses that same dependency and need for Jesus! God IS on the move, but we have an enemy who is seeking to take over the campuses. This calls for focused, united prayer.

We are excited to invite you to join us in the Campus Ministry for a 40-day, 24-hour **Prayer Season from August 23- October 1**. (October 1st is the 75th anniversary of Campus Crusade for Christ.) There will be 15-minute slots; you may sign up for one or one time for 40 days or for however many slots the Lord puts on your heart to do. To access the website where you can sign up, please scan the QR code below or you can email us directly at our emails to the right. Will you join us in praying for a mighty move of God? Now to Him who is able!



Scan this QR Code to join the 40 Day 24 Hour Prayer Chain for God to Move on the campuses of the USA

Following God's Moves,
Tom & Colleen



Tom & Colleen worshipping Jesus at Cru25 in Milwaukee. What a wonderful time with 4,000 Cru staff.

Prayer Requests

1. Pray that God would continue to stir up a hunger for Him in students and faculty over the nation and the whole world.
2. Pray for our 40-Day Prayer Calendar to have every slot filled and thousands praying for the campuses.
3. Pray for Collegiate Day of Prayer planning (Aug 25-27) for this year's event at Liberty University on Feb 26.
4. Continue to pray for protection over us and our sons and their families.

1121 Paoli Pike
West Chester, Pa 19380

tom.fraser@cru.org
colleen.fraser@cru.org

Tom 484-356-6447
Colleen 484-947-7971



SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Youth Group Pie Stand 11-1pm	2 8:30am Ephe- sians Bible Study 6:30pm Pray- er Team	3	4	5	6 8:30am Grief- Share
7 9am Worship	8 6:30pm Elder's Mtg 7pm Consis- tory	9 8:30am Ephe- sians Bible Study	10	11	12	13 8:30am Grief- Share
14 9am Worship Sunday School Kickoff Sunday	15 6:30pm Wom- en's Bible Study Lesson 27	16 8:30am Ephe- sians Bible Study	17 3:30pm Cate- chism	18	19	20 8:30am Grief- Share
21 9am Worship	22 6:30pm Sis- ters Keepers Back to School Night	23 8:30am Ephe- sians Bible Study	24 7:25 am See You at the Pole 3:30 Cate- chism	25	26	27 8:30am Grief- Share
28 9am Worship	29	30 8:30am Ephe- sians Bible Study				