



Oskaloosa 1st CRC Newsletter

November – December 2024

For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.

For his gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.

For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

By Fred Pratt Green

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope
of all the earth thou art:
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.
Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

By Charles Wesley

From Pastor Kamp's Desk

***"If you want to go fast, go alone;
if you want to go far, go together."
(African Proverb)***



This past week as I invested three days to travel to Grand Rapids, to read numerous documents, to sit in meetings, and to listen to reports with other members of the Christian Reformed Church the question of "why denominations?" not only entered my head but, by different routes, found its way onto the floor in some of these discussions.

The past couple of years have been challenging within our church leading to the decision of some congregations to leave the denomination: to go their own way, find their own path, make decisions alone. After sitting so long in meetings and reports the offer to "go fast, go alone" is quite appealing.

We can observe the lure of this appeal through the numerous churches that have chosen to become independent, non-denominational, or flatly split so many times that they are merely a denomination of one. Churches today desire to go fast, to grow rapidly, to make changes quickly, to become something new and exciting tomorrow without any accountability to history or fellow believers.

The word "accountability" is immensely important in the Christian faith, and it is the word that makes denominations like the CRCNA absolutely necessary. Denominations hold us accountable to one another, which is especially important when we do not want to be held accountable.

The Bible proclaims in Christ that we ought to:

"Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed." (James 5:16)

"Speak truth to one another for we are members one of another." (Ephesians 4:25)

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)

"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your soul as one who will give account."
(Hebrews 13:17)

Church structure is the way in which we covenant (or promise) to hold each other so accountable. I thank God that I have been called to pastor in a church where the Council leads. I am grateful for those who serve in the Council at First CRC because it means I never go it alone. The Council holds me accountable to my calling. The Council holds me accountable to the church's history. The Council holds me accountable in my own faith and walk.

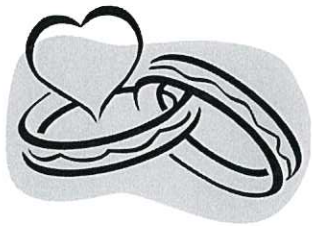
This accountability demands monthly travel, time, meetings, reports, and assessments not only from myself, but from every person on the Council. Even if we walk away from some meetings thinking little work has been accomplished; the truth is that we have held each other accountable and that is significant. None of us are free to walk alone, to make decisions alone, to be accountable to no one. This might mean we walk slowly, but we do walk together.

This is the truth which I reflected on with my extensive time traveling to and in meetings in Grand Rapids. The questions simply are: Is accountability worth it? Is accountability worth the cost of a denomination? Is accountability worth the amount of time and energy it takes to change the direction of a denomination?

Those who leave will be able to turn on a dime alone without accountability. Those who remain may be jealous of how sharp the Titanic turned, but we will do so together and Lord willing, we won't hit an iceberg together.

The blessing for those who go together; is that we go far. We are each pilgrims whose path is destined for eternity. May God gives us the grace to walk together faithfully even if it is slowly, remembering that the righteous are often compared to trees which slowly grow in size and strength.

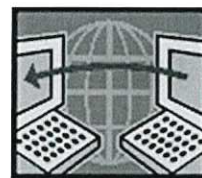
Church Family News



Kendall & Trish (Beverlin) Brink
~ 8/31/24

New Email Address:

Dena Van Engelenhoven –
denave123@gmail.com



Bert & Elaine Bandstra
2102 S. Market Street
Room #148
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Keitha Troxel
Ridgewood Specialty Care Ctr.
Room #L4
1977 Albia Road
Ottumwa, IA 52501

Jill De Ronde
2004 NW Sharmin Dr.
Ankeny, IA 50023

Membership Updates

Transferred: Gideon Boender
~ to The Bridge Church/Oskaloosa, 9/3/24

Received: Wilbur & Nancy Kelderman
~ from Tracy CRC, 9/29/24



First CRC Council 2024

Pastor Jon Spronk	Pastor		641-295-5155 673-5693	(Cell) (Study)
Pastor Erik Kamp	Pastor		641-417-9433	
Keith Brink	Elder	2026	641-660-4031	Youth Elder
Joel De Bruin	Elder	2025	641-295-6364	Evangelism Committee
Rich De Bruin	Elder	2025	641-660-9820	Building & Grounds & Tech. Committee
Lucas De Groot	Elder	2027	641-777-4970	Worship Committee
Brent De Ronde	Elder	2026	641-660-9472	Communion, Care Groups & Bulletin Comm.
Tim Jabaay	Elder	2027	319-899-8343	Council Clerk, Elder's VP, & Pulpit Supply
Steve Plate	Elder	2025	641-660-8133	Elder's Clerk & Council VP
Doug Richards	Elder	2027	641-660-6455	Education Comm. & Library
Luke Roozeboom	Elder	2026	641-660-4150	Communion, Care Groups & Records Clerk
Jeff Van Donselaar	Elder	2027	641-295-3286	Fellowship
Paul Van Donselaar	Elder	2025	641-660-4507	President, Pulpit Supply
Mike Boender	Deacon	2027	641-660-3957	Deacon Chairman & Disaster Relief Coordinator
Adam De Bruin	Deacon	2027	641-295-2111	Benevolence & Enduring Gifts
Kyle De Ronde	Deacon	2025	641-660-2907	Deacon Secretary & Disability Concerns
Trent Meyer	Deacon	2026	319-231-6054	Special Offerings Treasurer
Chris Pierson	Deacon	2027	641-670-0081	Ass't General Fund Treasurer
Brennan Plate	Deacon	2026	641-660-6949	Building Fund Treasurer
Josh Van Donselaar	Deacon	2025	641-295-1942	General Fund Treasurer
Mitchel Veenstra	Deacon	2026	641-660-3653	Vicar & C.E.F. Treasurer

Sue De Bruin	Church Secretary	673-4272 673-7303	(Office) (Home)
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Katelyn Van Donselaar	Custodian	1-641-226-1495
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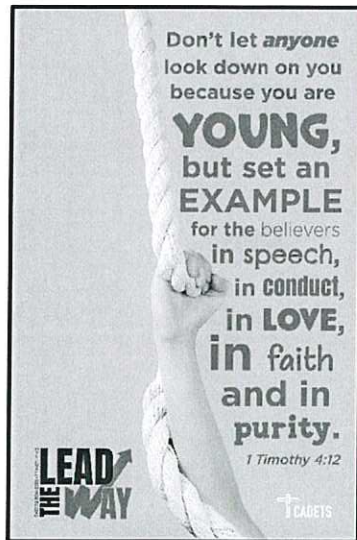
Nursery Schedule

November - December 2024

A.M.

Nov. 3	Kahrey C, Erica DB Hannah B
Nov. 10	Kelly P, Anton B Jayde DG
Nov. 17 (Communion)	Luke B, Natalie P Leah S, Kahlan K
Nov. 24	Karen F, Galen H Clara B
Nov. 28 (Thanksgiving)	Joyce S, John B Harper McK
Dec. 1	Rachael H, Madi H Zachary DG
Dec. 8	Joan K, Arianna J Maggie McM
Dec. 15	Amelia B, Anniston M Dawson R
Dec. 22	Ki B, Ezra G Taylor H
Dec. 25 (Christmas)	Jill DB, Kristina G Trinity R
Dec. 29	Bethany DB (K), Aubrey K Natalie B





Cadets

On September 27-28, the Cadets had their Fall Campout. God blessed us with beautiful weather to be outside. The campout was held in Mike Jackson's timber. He had cleaned it up so there was plenty of space for each cadre to set up their tents and have a fire (or two or three). The boys used the dead wood that was around to build big fires – imagine that, boys and big fires. 😊

On Friday evening, we set up camp and then had supper. The boys had hamburgers and beans; the counselors had steak – thanks to Pastor Jon. The boys enjoyed exploring and sitting around their fires.

On Saturday morning, breakfast was scrambled eggs, sausage patties, and pancakes. We then worked on badges. We had 4 stations set up and each group took its turn at fire building, shelter building, riflery, and GPS.

We were back at church by 11:30 Saturday morning for family to pick up the boys.

It was a great campout and the boys that were able to attend had a great time!

This year we have 31 boys in Cadets from 5 different churches. We are looking forward to a great year of learning about God and making projects.

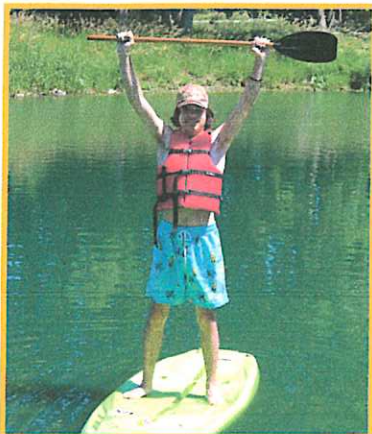
If you see the following counselors & helpers, please take a moment to thank them for the time and energy they invest in the Cadet program:

4th Grade: Karl Boender, Kaleb Groenenboom (from Central Church),
Tyler Shelquist, David Van Ee (from Bethel CRC) &
Galen Hughes (Jr. Counselor)

5th/6th Grade: Pastor Jon, Luke Roozeboom

7th Grade: Laremy De Groot, Tony Hughes, Jeremy Van Donselaar

8th Grade: Mike Jackson, Sherwin Plate



Friends at First CRC,

We **Thank you** for creating opportunities to share the Love of Christ through the power of Camp!

Rejoice with us for the summer of 2024 and all the ways that God used camp experiences to reach His children. God provided a great staff to guide campers to explore nature, have tons of fun, make new friends, to share God's word and love, to worship, praise, pray, and to open their hearts to Jesus.

"I AM" was the theme this summer and campers and staff explored the truths the Bible teaches about who God really is!

Campers learned how God Extends His hand to us. *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.* Isaiah 41: 10-13

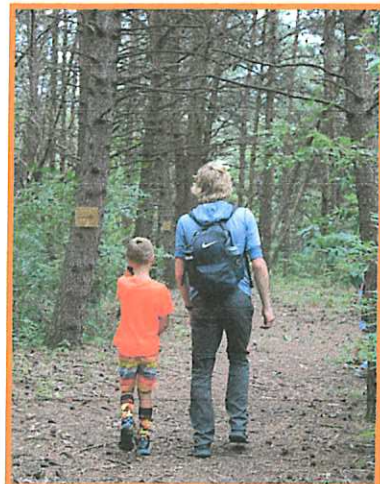
They also learned how God is our Good Shepard. Jesus leads us, protects us, loves us, He is the gatekeeper. *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."* John 10:11

Thank you for your support which allows the camp to provide opportunities to share with young and old who God is, and how much He loves them!

God is Good! All the Time!
All the Time - God is Good!
What a great summer! Thank You
for being God's messengers!
We Love You!

Diana Brummel

In His service,











Lake View is a non-profit organization, and all gifts are tax deductible. Enclosed is your receipt for tax purposes.



LAKE VIEW CAMP







Decode the Hymns






Use the musical notes and symbols to decode the titles of ten favorite hymns about Jesus.

A B C D E F G H I J



























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












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












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PO Box 1765, Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-272-8170
www.piministries.info office@piministries.com

August 2024

Dear Friends,

Neal and Martha Kooyers came to Papua New Guinea as missionaries with Wycliffe Bible Translators in 1961 and began working in Madiwai village. In 1968 Neal built a house at bordering the airstrip at Ambunti alongside the Sepik River. With fewer mosquitos at this location the translation was more efficiently completed. The housing also provided accommodations or logistical support to other WBT missionaries working in the area. Though the years many more buildings were added to the Ambunti property and it now

includes housing for mission staff, a repair shop, a large training room and the field offices of Pacific Island Ministries.

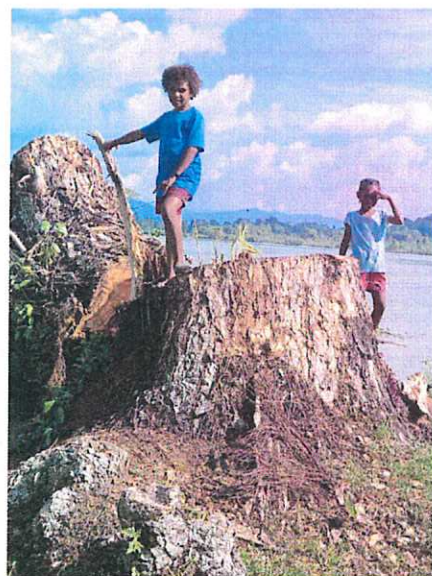
Old pictures show that six raintrees or monkeypod trees were planted when the house was built. For the past 50 years, these fast-growing trees became massive in size with tree trunks of over four feet in diameter providing umbrellas of shade of up to 90 feet in diameter. Sadly, to protect nearby houses

from possible storm damage from any falling limbs, some of the big trees in the yard had to be cut down.

Recently, yet another one of these giant raintrees was felled before the Sepik River erosion had a chance to undercut the tree's roots and topple it causing even more damage. Since the tree was planted over 12 feet of the river bank has eroded. Unlike redwood trees, raintrees cannot live for millennia as their almost horizontal branches grow too long and break, insects invade and then the decay process begins causing a steady decline.

Certainly, the erosion of time, that second law of thermodynamics is confirmed in the world around us and even with our own bodies. The Bible reminds us we are to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven, not in this world where moth and rust destroy and thieves break in and steal. The heavenly treasure is indestructible.

As the work of PIM continues, we have had some of those who started working the in early years with PIM move on to glory. However, we see their children and grandchildren grow, advance in their education, and then go into various vocations. We are blessed to have children of PIM employees who completed teacher's college and can now teach in PIM schools.





As with Micah Aimei who has come to PIM to work. Justine, his father worked with PIM as a plumber for many years. PIM started with Micah at the reception counter dealing with folks who want photo copies, documents typed, or other services plus he has the other duties of meeting aircraft, organizing transport of supplies or personnel by river, and variety of other PIM tasks. Micah has completed some correspondence courses for business studies while on the job and is keen on continuing his education for management. He is active in leading the youth group of a local church. He and his wife Delca have four children. PIM values him as an employee. We

trust the Lord for future employees.

Yours in Christ,

Douglas Heidema



MCCA Newsletter

MEXICAN CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S AID

And whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes Me. Matt. 18:5

Serving the needy children of Baja since 1964

**FALL
2024**



Celebrating 60 Years

MCCA strives to be obedient to God's call. A call to provide food for needy children and families in Baja California. This is accomplished by supplying them each month with food for the body, but also the mission is food for the soul. The opportunity to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Many Children have been nourished with meals and also with the living water of God's word brought to them in their own language. Many young lives have been changed forever. Food for thought.



Members decorated the Fellowship Hall in the colors of the Mexican Flag. In the kitchen, authentic Mexican Shrimp, Chicken and Carne Asada Street Tacos were prepared with Rice and Beans, Guacamole and all the trimmings. So delicious! An anonymous person graciously paid for the entire dinner so as not to deplete any funds from MCCA accounts. A sincere gift of Love.



On the evening on August 17, 2024 in the Fellowship Hall of The River Church in Redlands, a dinner was held. Its purpose was to celebrate and commemorate the 60th Year Anniversary since MCCA began its ministry. Present were members of the Board of Directors including the elected Executive Directors, President - Paul Vela, Vice President - Don Dresner, Treasurer - Steve Diaz, and Secretary - Richard DeWitt. Many of our Drivers were present, along with the riders that help to load and unload the trucks. Local donors who live in the area were in attendance as well.

Donations, which may be tax deductible can be made by visiting our website at <http://mccaredlands.org/>

Founded in 1964 in Redlands, CA., Mexican Christian Children's Aid is a, 501(c)(3), Charitable Organization. It began when a group of Christian business people were moved to address the sharp contrast between the affluence in the U.S., and the abject poverty found just across our southern border in Mexico. We purchase and provide monthly bulk food deliveries and other assistance to local Christian organizations in the northern Baja region. We deliver the food donations primarily to organizations that sponsor Children's Homes and or operate periodic Feeding Programs to needy families. Along with the food, Spanish translation Bibles, Gospel Tracts, and other items are generally a part of our deliveries. Our monthly runs consist of all volunteer drivers and riders who donate their vehicles full of fuel and literally everything needed to complete the mission each time we go. The MCCA does not own or rent a building, nor are there any paid staff.

The result is that 100% of all monetary donations goes directly to purchase food products.



(Left) El Presidente Paul Vela, was the Master of Ceremony and did a wonderful job. Decade by decade, he skillfully described the many changes and transitions MCCA encountered as the outreach of the organization grew. (Center) A compilation of slides, music and video, beautifully put together by Ron Koning, was a touching walk down memory lane over the 60 years of the organization. Many dedicated members were remembered. (Right) A heartfelt video message was shown of Tony Hernandez speaking gratefully to us from Rancho Milagro (Miracle Ranch). Tony and his wife Edna and their son Joshua have served there for many years. During the slide show, many of the founding members were shown, dealing with the hardships they encountered, such as torrential rain, floods and washed-out roads. Yet, they pressed on with God's watchful eye upon them, providing miraculous ways forward for every difficult situation. To this day, we see His faithful handiwork guiding us and blessing us on the monthly trips. On occasion the trips can still turn into challenges. However, God is always with us, and yes ... miracles do still happen.



Two special guest speakers who we support with the monthly deliveries drove up from their Ministries in Mexico. (Left) Pastor Eufrasio Perez who has ministries in Tecate Mexico as well as in Tecate USA, was present to share his sincere gratefulness for the support from MCCA. (Right) Jim Drake, from the children's home "Colina de Luz" also drove up and spoke at the dinner. Jim, born an American citizen, has spent most of his adult life in Mexico with his wife Suzie managing and ministering to orphaned children. Colina de Luz was a run-down mess when they felt God's call and took it over. It is now a thriving and amazing place turning many needy kids into adolescent young men and women who love Jesus and want to serve Him with their lives. As the children grow older, Jim encourages them to learn to teach and conduct worship. He described a recent chapel service at Colina where the youth did just that. They took over a chapel service and led worship, and taught the Word and ministered to the younger children. Jim shared that he was deeply moved with tears of joy. Men of God.

A wonderful evening indeed. So, after 60 years, MCCA continues and so it will with our Lord's blessing until His return. Sincere thanks to all of you for your faithful and continued financial support and prayers!

**** DONATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED IN LOVING MEMORY OF JERRY HAMILL ****
Jerry and Eunice gave their all to God through His Son, Jesus Christ. They are together again now and at peace forever with the LORD




Mission Statement

MCCA is a ministry obedient to God's call to care for children in need by supplying those in Baja California with food, Spanish translation Bibles and the opportunity to know the love of Jesus Christ.

MCCA Executive Board Contacts

Paul Vela	President	psvela76@gmail.com
Don Dresner	Vice President	donandglady@msn.com
Steve Diaz	Treasurer	stevediazwhosoever@gmail.com
Rich DeWitt	Secretary	rdewitt@yahoo.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MCCA1964>
Web Site: <http://mccaredlands.org/>
Mailing Address: PO Box 9931, Redlands, CA 92375

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>  <h1>December</h1>  </div>						
1 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School Program Practice	2 Friendship Class Council, Elder & Deacon Meetings	3 Coffee Break p.m.	4 Games Day Cadets IGNITE	5 Coffee Break a.m.	6	7 Gospel Singers Rehearsal
8 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School Program Practice Homestead Service <i>Mary Van Engelenhoven's Birthday</i>	9	10 Coffee Break p.m. – Potluck	11 Cadets – Party GEMS – Party IGNITE – Candlelight Practice <i>Marilyn Brummel's Birthday</i>	12 Women's Morning Bible Study Coffee Break a.m. – Brunch	13	14
15 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School Program Practice Candlelight Service	16 Friendship Class	17	18 Games Day	19	20	21 Gospel Singers Rehearsal <i>Henry Van Arkel's Birthday</i>
22 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School Program Blue Christmas	23	24 <i>Joyce Slagter's Birthday</i>	25 <i>Christmas</i> 	26	27	28
29 Prayer Service (am) NO Sunday School	30	31 <i>Wilbur Kelderman's Birthday</i>	