



Oskaloosa  
1<sup>st</sup> CRC  
Newsletter

May – June 2025

**Place In This World**

**I'm looking for a reason  
Roaming through the night to find  
My place in this world Not a lot to lean on  
I need Your light to help me find  
My place in this world My place in this world**

**The wind is moving  
But I am standing still  
A life of pages waiting to be filled  
A heart that's hopeful  
A head that's full of dreams  
But this becoming is harder  
Than it seems Feels like**

**If there are millions  
Down on their knees  
Among the many  
Can You still hear me  
Hear me asking where do I belong  
Is there a vision  
That I can call my own Show me**

**Looking for a reason  
Roaming through the night  
To find my place in this world  
My place in this world Not a lot to lean on  
I need Your light to help me find  
My place in this world My place in this world**

Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith, Wayne Kirkpatrick  
CCLI Song #582778

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*From Pastor Spronk's Desk*

## **LOOKING TOWARD SYNOD 2025**



The CRC 2025 Synod will convene at Redeemer University in Ancaster, Ontario, Canada from June 13-19. I (Pastor Jon) have been delegated along with another pastor and 2 Elder's from Classis Central Plains. This will be my 4<sup>th</sup> Synod, though it's my first one since 2016. As I have talked about in this space before, the Synods of 2022-24 have been a series of important gatherings for the CRC as we solidified what we believe about the topic of sexuality in the face of the rapidly changing societal views.

Synod 2022 passed the Human Sexuality Report, Synod 2023 confirmed it and Synod 2024 gave instructions on how non-compliant churches and office-bearers (pastors, elders, deacons) would be disciplined going forward. In the aftermath of Synod 2024, there have been approximately 40 churches and 60 pastors (active and retired) that are seeking disaffiliation with the CRC (denominationally, we have about 1000 churches and 1000 pastors and commissioned pastors). I grieve that these pastors and churches are leaving, but I also know that if the Synods had gone the other way the loss in our denomination would have been catastrophic. For example, the Reformed Church in America (RCA) has lost approximately 75% of their churches and members in the last 5 years (and most of their churches locally in Central Iowa) over the issues of sexuality.

I suspect Synod 2025 to be a bit quieter Synod. There are still lingering questions about how we implement confessional faithfulness at our denominational college, Calvin University, but I have been encouraged by recent reports from CU's administration. Furthermore, there will be discussions on the CRC's relationship with the RCA (again the remnant RCA is a much different denomination today).

Synod 2025 will also have reports from Task Forces on Virtual Church and on Assisted Suicide, issues that will certainly impact the denomination going forward. Moreover, Synod will have a variety of overtures and requests from its Classes and Councils. If you are interested in reading the full agenda it is now online at [www.crcna.org/synodresources](http://www.crcna.org/synodresources) (be warned, it is 431 pages!).

Friends, as May and June approach, please pray for me and the other delegates. The days of Synod are always full, busy, and wearing. Please pray for our denomination as we seek to fulfill our mandate as a Christ-Centered Church.

Pastor Jon



# *Church Family News*



Pat & Eveline Franje  
641-670-7972  
(no longer have a landline)



Boone Stephen De Ronde – 3/9/25  
~ son of Kyle & Meredith



## **First CRC Council 2025**

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
Lucas De Groot	Elder	2027	641-777-4970	Worship Committee
Brent De Ronde	Elder	2026	641-660-9472	Evangelism Comm., Bulletin, Communion, Care Groups
Allen Groenenboom	Elder	2028	641-660-6719	Building & Grounds Comm.
Tim Jabaay	Elder	2027	319-899-8343	Council Clerk, Elder's VP, & Pulpit Supply
Steve Kaisand	Elder	2028	641-891-2672	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
Kirk Veenstra	Elder	2028	641-295-3056	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
Dan McKinney	Deacon	2028	641-931-6491	Ass't General Fund Treasurer
Trent Meyer	Deacon	2026	319-231-6054	Deacon Secretary & Disability Concerns
Chris Pierson	Deacon	2027	641-670-0081	General Fund Treasurer
Brennan Plate	Deacon	2026	641-660-6949	Building Fund Treasurer
Sherwin Plate	Deacon	2028	641-670-0584	Special Offerings Treasurer & Tech. Committee
Mitchel Veenstra	Deacon	2026	641-660-3653	Vicar & C.E.F. Treasurer
*****				
Sue De Bruin	Church Secretary		673-4272 673-7303	(Office) (Home)
Katelyn Van Donselaar	Custodian		1-641-226-1495	

Updated 12/3/24

# Nursery Schedule

## May - June 2025

### A.M.

May 4	Ki B, Galen H Clara B
May 11	Stacy B, Harper McK Mack J
May 18 (Communion)	Luke B, Natalie P Allison B, Maggie McM
May 25	Joan K, Anton B Jayde DG
June 1	Bethany DB (K), Anniston M Zach DG
June 8	Amelia B, Madi H Dawson R
June 15	Kyah C, Leah S Daxton R
June 22	Georgina DR, Leah L Kahlan K
June 29	Kelly P, Elijah B Trinity R





**Building/Grounds Committee**

Allen Groenenboom, Chair('28)  
Keith De Bruin, Secretary  
Brennan Plate – Deacon ('26)  
Bert Bandstra  
Byron Bruxvoort  
Roger Fynaardt  
Rich De Bruin

**C.E.F.**

Irv De Bruin, Chair  
Mitchel Veenstra, Deacon  
Kurtis De Bruin  
Layton De Groot  
Dan Fynaardt  
Steve Plate

**Care Groups**

Luke Roozeboom ('26)  
Brent De Ronde ('26)

**Communion**

Luke Roozeboom ('26)  
Brent De Ronde ('26)

**Education Committee**

Doug Richards, Chair ('27)  
Steve Kaisand, Secretary ('25)  
Ruth De Bruin  
Joleen Louwsma  
Trent Meyer  
Pastor Jon Spronk

**Enduring Gifts**

Adam De Bruin ('27)  
Stacy Boender  
Heather Collins

**Evangelism Committee**

Brent De Ronde, Chair ('26)  
Keri Spronk, Secretary  
Lucas De Bruin  
Tim Jabaay  
Christy Meyer

**2025 1<sup>st</sup> CRC Committee Members****Executive Committee**

Pastor Jon Spronk  
Pastor Erik Kamp  
Tim Jabaay,  
Council Clerk ('27)  
Mike Boender,  
Deacon Chair ('27)  
Steve Kaisand,  
Elder's Clerk ('28)  
Kirk Veenstra,  
Council Chair ('28)

**Fellowship Committee**

Jeff Van Donselaar, Chair ('27)  
Vicki Van Donselaar, Secretary  
BJ & Cassia Boender  
Ken & Lavonne Brink  
Ryan & Amanda Brink  
Jay & Diane Bruxvoort  
Matt & Heather Collins  
Rich & Karen De Bruin  
Layton & Deann De Groot  
Karen Fynaardt  
Dan & Lori McKinney  
John & Delores Ryken  
Larry Van Mersbergen  
Bruce & Jeannene Veenstra  
Mark Vos

**Flower Committee**

Ruth Branderhorst

**Funeral Committee**

Lana De Groot, Chair  
Arlene Meinders, Secretary  
Delores Ryken

**Kitchen Committee**

Belinda De Groot, Co-Chair  
Dena Van Engelenhoven,  
Co-Chair  
Lana De Groot  
Delores Ryken  
Linda Van Donselaar

**Library Committee**

Doug Richards, Chair ('27)  
Sandra Plate

**Newsletter**

Sue De Bruin

**PowerPoint**

Lisa De Bruin  
Saif Grafke  
Kristin Plate  
Sharon Spoelstra  
Renee Van Kooten

**Praise Teams**

Kristin Boender

**Sound System**

Kurtis De Bruin, Chair  
Lucas De Bruin  
Rich De Bruin  
Dan Fynaardt  
Sherwin Plate  
Leon Van Kooten  
Mitchel Veenstra

**Technology Committee**

Sherwin Plate, Chair ('28)  
Doug De Bruin  
Rich De Bruin  
Mitchel Veenstra  
Saif Grafke

**Website**

Lisa De Bruin  
Cyndi Fynaardt  
Joan Kunz

**Worship Committee**

Lucas De Groot, Chair ('27)  
Pastor Jon Spronk  
Pastor Erik Kamp  
Ruth Branderhorst,  
Flower Comm.  
Erica De Bruin  
Cyndi Fynaardt,  
Projection Coordinator  
Cheryl Groenenboom,  
Worship Coordinator  
Kristin Plate (12/27)  
Sharon Spoelstra, Secretary  
Jeff Van Donselaar,  
Fellowship Comm. Rep.

# 2025



## *8th Grade Graduates*

***Kate De Bruin***

Will graduate from Oskaloosa Christian Grade School on May 16 and plans to attend Pella Christian High School. She is the daughter of Kurtis & Lisa De Bruin.

***Johnathon Jackson***

Will graduate from Oskaloosa Christian Grade School on May 16 and plans to attend North Mahaska High School. He is the son of Mike & Mary Beth Jackson.

***Aubrey Kaisand***

Will graduate from Oskaloosa Christian Grade School on May 16 and plans to attend Pella Christian High School. She is the daughter of Steve & Jenessa Kaisand.

***Harper McKinney***

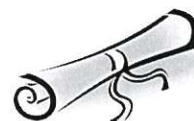
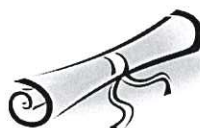
Will graduate from Oskaloosa Christian Grade School on May 16 and plans to attend Pella Christian High School. She is the daughter of Dan & Lori McKinney.

***Cayden Plate***

Will continue at North Mahaska High School as a Freshman. He is the son of Sherwin & Kristin Plate.

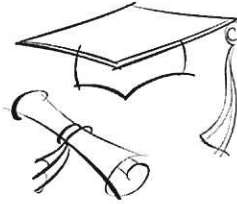
***Leah Spronk***

Will graduate from Oskaloosa Christian Grade School on May 16 and plans to attend Pella Christian High School. She is the daughter of Pastor Jon & Keri Spronk.





# 2025

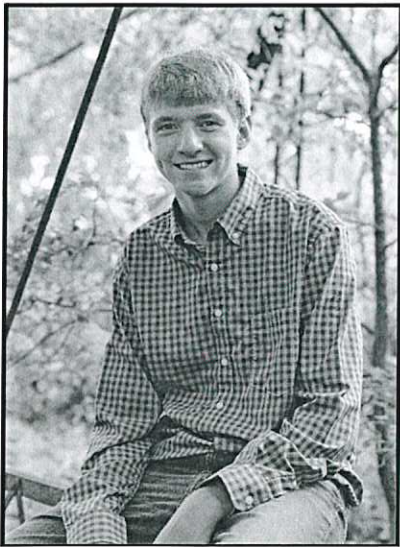


## *High School Graduates*

*Luke Boender  
Madi Hol*

*Anna De Bruin  
Ty Lorentzen*

*Erica De Bruin  
Bethany Van Donselaar*



Luke Boender will graduate from North Mahaska High School on May 18, 2025.

He is planning to finish the Machine Technology Program at Indian Hills Community College.

Luke was involved in Basketball, Shooting and Baseball while in high school.

In his free time, Luke enjoys fishing and riding dirt bikes.

Luke is the son of Doug & Ginger Boender.



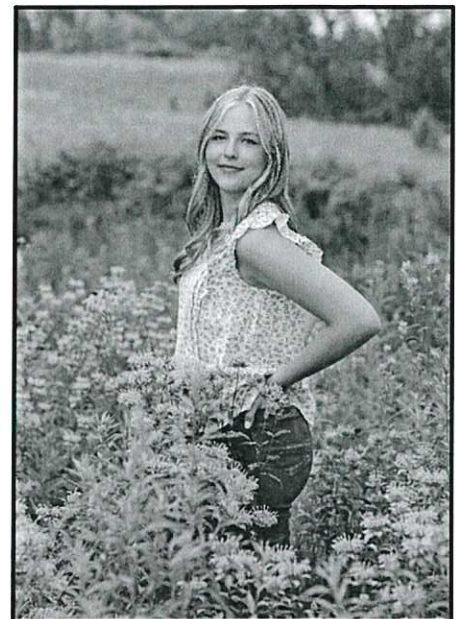
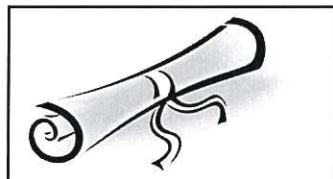
Anna De Bruin will graduate from North Mahaska High School on May 18, 2025.

She plans to attend Iowa State University for Business/Accounting.

While in high school, Anna was involved in Track, Choir, FFA & FCA.

In her free time, she enjoys spending time with friends, hiking and other outdoor activities.

Anna is the daughter of Doug & Robbyn De Bruin.





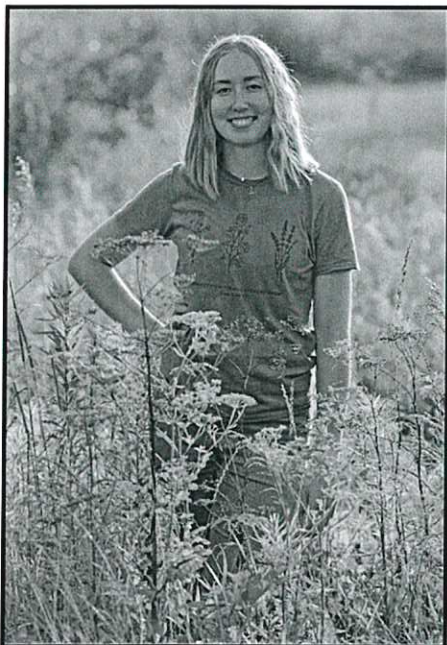
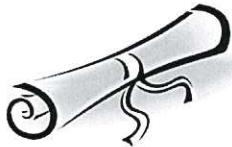
Erica De Bruin will graduate from Pella Christian High School on May 24, 2025.

She plans to attend Indian Hills Community College and major in Occupational Therapy Assistant.

Erica was involved in Soccer, Cross-Country, FFA and the Yearbook while she was in high school.

In her free time, she enjoys gardening, reading and hanging out with friends.

Erica is the daughter of Kurtis & Lisa De Bruin.



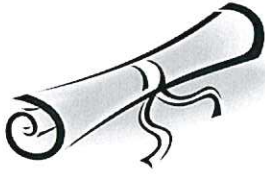
Madison Hol will graduate from North Mahaska High School on May 18, 2025.

She plans to attend Kirkwood Community College for their Physical Therapist Assistance Program.

Madi was involved in FFA, Color Guard, Theatre & FCA while she was in high school.

Madi is the daughter of Eric & Kim Hol.



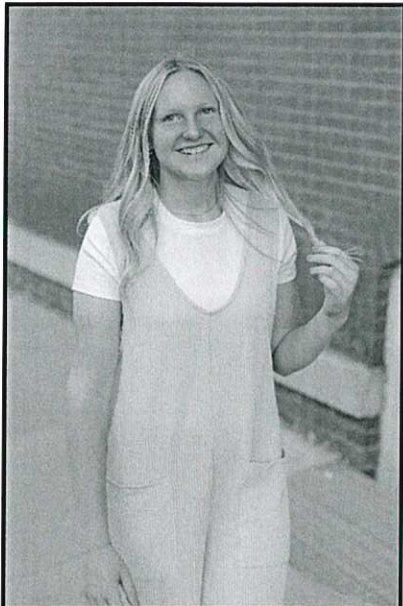
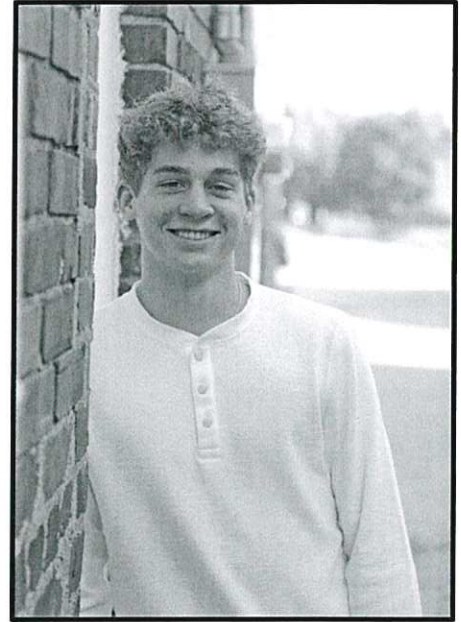


Ty Lorentzen will graduate from Oskaloosa High School on May 18, 2025.

He plans to attend Morningside University to continue his wrestling career and major in Finance and Marketing.

He enjoys playing sports.

Ty is the son of Jeff & Tammy Lorentzen.



Bethany Van Donselaar will graduate from Oskaloosa High School on May 18, 2025.

She plans to attend William Penn University for her Bachelor's in Elementary Education and then receive her Master's in School Counseling.

Bethany was involved in Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band, FBLA, the School Mentor Program and Perr Helping while she was in high school.

In her free time, Bethany enjoys hanging out with friends and family.

Bethany is the daughter of Jeremy & Kristen Van Donselaar.

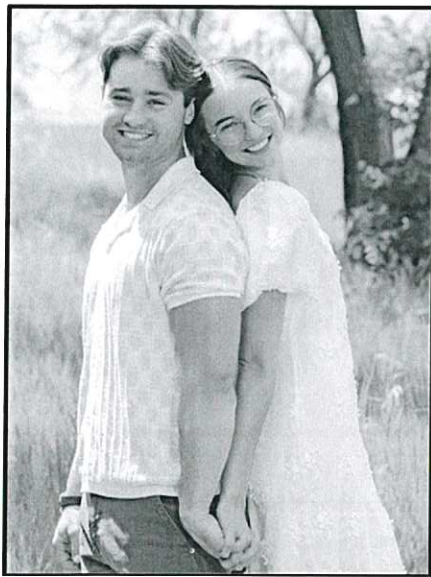






# 2025 College Graduates

Cody Boender



Cody Boender will be graduating from Dordt University on May 9, 2025.

He is getting married on July 19 to Victoria Colwell and plans to attend Augustana University in September for Physical Therapy Grad School.

Cody was involved in football while at Dordt.

In his free time, Cody enjoys bow-fishing, fishing, fixing up his car, golfing and being with his friends.

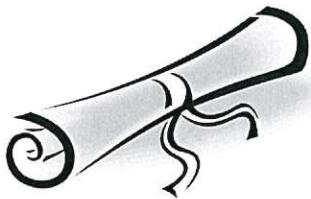
Cody is the son of Mike & Suzanne Boender.

## *You May Count That Day*

If you sit down at set of sun  
And count the acts that you have done,  
And, counting, find  
One self-denying deed, one word  
That eased the heart of him who heard -  
One glance most kind,  
That fell like sunshine where it went -  
Then you may count that day well spent.

But if, through all the livelong day,  
You've cheered no heart, by yea or nay -  
If, through it all  
You've nothing done that you can trace  
That brought the sunshine to one face -  
No act most small  
That helped some soul and nothing cost -  
Then count that day as worse than lost.

by George Eliot







## Tuesday Evening Coffee Break & Story Hour ~~ Spring 2025



Coffee Break is an international, non-denominational Bible Study for women. Story Hour is for children 3 years through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. We have women of the church & community attending. We started in the fall with a picnic, socializing for the women and playtime for their children. Each week following we had a meal 5:45 followed by Bible study for women and Bible stories, games & crafts for their children.



Early November we prepared 89 shoe box gifts for Samaritan's Purse, plus helped others at church as well to send 154 from 1<sup>st</sup> CRC. Over the summer look for items on sale that you may like to pick up for the boxes. New in 2025 no SOAP! Let us know if you have items to donate to the boxes.

Vadioled Sofia remains our World Vision sponsored child from Columbia. She is eight years old now. Funds raised at the annual **Ice Cream Social, JUNE 24**, will help to pay for our sponsor child AND for the postage for the shoe box gifts.



In March we went to Homestead with our meal, then entertained the residents with a FUN sing-a-long, a



skit and crafts. The skit was "Heaven's Grocery Store" where many things could be purchased. At the checkout, the angel said, "NO CHARGE! JESUS PAID THE PRICE!"

Thank you to all the AWESOME cooks, hostesses, Story Hour leaders, and crafters that help us year after year! See you all at the Ice Cream Social and be thinking about inviting someone to attend with you next year. **GOD BLESS YOU!**



**Dena VanEngelenhoven ~ Deb Bruxvoort ~ Ruth DeBruin ~ Linda DeRonde ~ Tracy DeGroot**



## **CADETS/GEMS CAR RACE RESULTS**

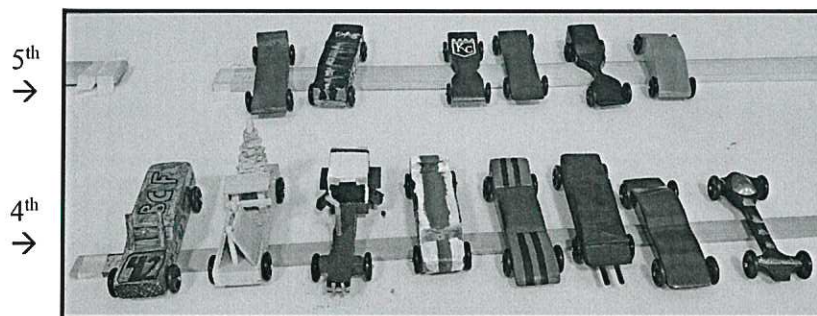
We had a wonderful time at the races on March 26.

Thanks to all who came out to support us, to those who participated and for the good sportsmanship shown by all.

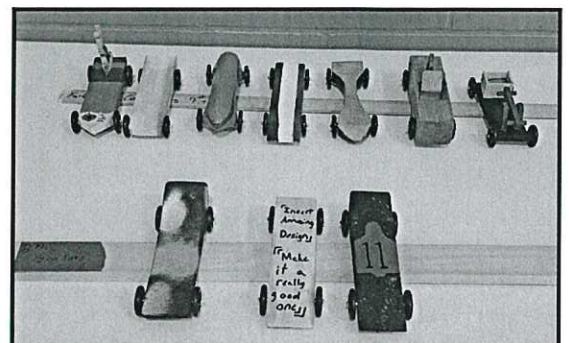
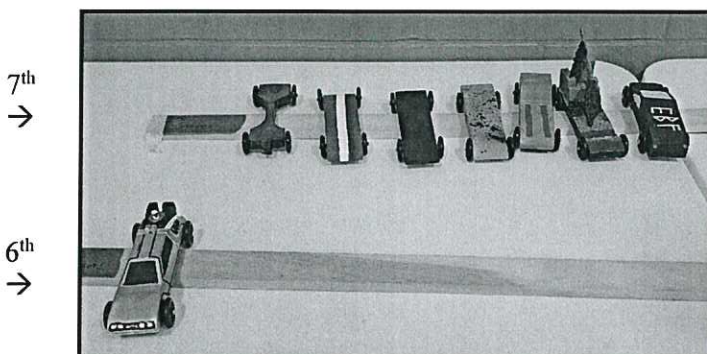


### **Cadets**

4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3)	Levi, Malaki, Caleb	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Show	Eli
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3)	Daxton, Mack, Lake	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Show	Charlie
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1)	Willem	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Show	Willem
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3)	Dawson, Nick, Jace	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Show	Dawson
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3)	Cayden, Johnathon J, John S	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Show	John S
Fathers/Counselors Speed (1,2,3)	Matt, Galen, Tony	Fathers/Counselors Show	Galen
Overall Speed (1,2)	Dawson, Daxton	Turtle Race	Jude



Top Row – Adults  
Bottom Row – 8<sup>th</sup>







## **GEMS**

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3)**

**Larissa, Aliviah, Maggie**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3)**

**Hailee, Lizzy, Avery**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2)**

**Kahlen, Louise**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3)**

**Nora, Kywnn, Caroline**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3)**

**Rachel, Aubrey, Josie**

**Overall Speed (1,2)**

**Hailee, Kahlen**

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade Show**

**Jayde**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Show**

**Violet**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Show**

**Kahlan**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Show**

**Cobie**

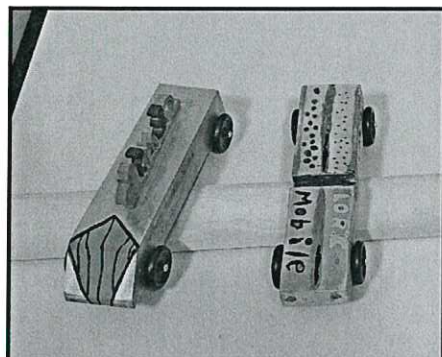
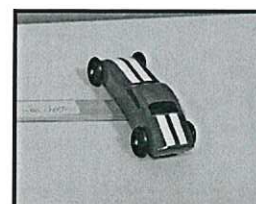
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Show**

**Arianne**

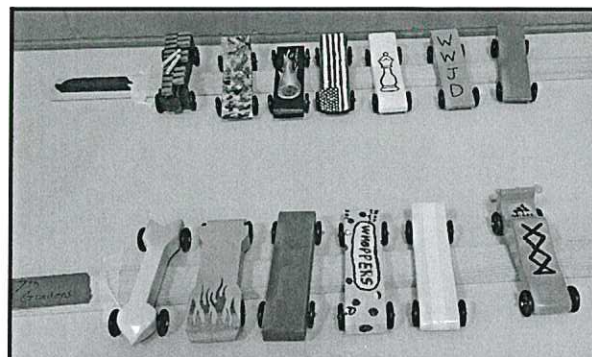
**Turtle Race**

**Raegan**

5<sup>th</sup>  
→  
  
4<sup>th</sup>  
→  
  
Far  
Right -  
Adult



8<sup>th</sup>  
→  
  
6<sup>th</sup>  
←  
  
7<sup>th</sup>  
→





## Dave Gritters accepts New Life pastoral call

**The New Life Council is delighted to announce that Dave Gritters has accepted the call to be the commissioned pastor for New Life Prison Church.**

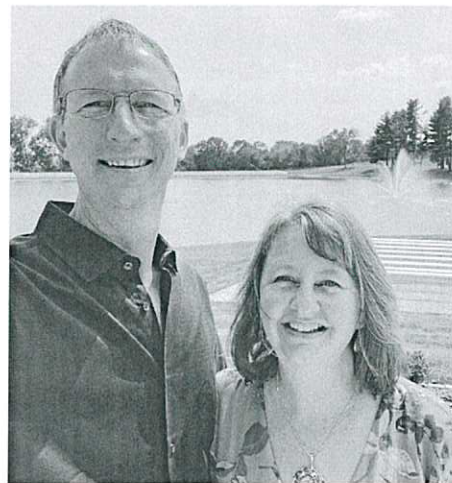
Dave and his wife, Cindy, have been part of New Life since its beginning, going into Newton Correctional Facility to bring music to worship services. Dave has also served as an elder on the New Life Council. Since Rick and Rose Admiraal left Pella in December 2023, Dave and Cindy have taken on leadership roles. Dave has taken charge of weekly worship while Cindy, who often accompanies him, has undertaken administrative work.

Dave and Cindy are lifelong residents of Pella and lifelong members of the Christian Reformed Church, of which New Life is an organized congregation. Dave and Cindy hold their "outside membership" at Calvary CRC of Pella, where Cindy is also on staff as the worship coordinator. The Gritters have been involved in prison

ministry for many years. Beyond New Life, they served as small group and worship leaders with the Interchange Freedom Initiative (IFI) before that program ended; they also served with Crossroads Fellowship for several years.

Dave has a true heart for serving God. He is a workplace chaplain at two local manufacturing companies. In 2025, he completed his theological education with the Coram Deo Association of Churches, completing the CRC commissioned pastor program after four years of study. Dave and Cindy have a heart for the incarcerated. They love bringing God's word to them and the joy of worshipping our God with our brothers in Christ in Newton.

The New Life Council praises God that Dave was willing to accept our call



to leadership! We pray this ministry may continue and thrive as we bring worship to Newton Correctional Facility each week.

Dave and Cindy have three adult children living in Denver, Oklahoma City, and Pella. They have four grandchildren, whom they love watching grow. The Gritters also love the outdoors and can often be found enjoying a beautiful summer sunset from their boat on the lake, taking a walk, or simply enjoying their backyard.

Meet the  
**NEW LIFE  
COUNCIL**

### Glenda Vander Leest (Governing Elder)

I have been part of the New Life community since its very beginning, serving on the launch team for six years when we were feeling our way into something very new to us. This opportunity came at a time when my children were grown and I was looking for a way to serve God and find more purpose for my life. I remember well the first time I went into the prison! I was definitely out of my comfort zone, but God opened my eyes to my narrowmindedness, and I was so blessed by our reception



*continued on back*



**Pastor Dave Gritters**

PHONE: 641-780-2148

EMAIL: [pastor@newlife-prison.org](mailto:pastor@newlife-prison.org)

WEBSITE: [www.newlife-prison.org](http://www.newlife-prison.org)

Find us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/NewLifePrisonCommunity](https://www.facebook.com/NewLifePrisonCommunity)

**Donate to New Life this spring!**

I'd like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support New Life Prison Church.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions may be sent to: **New Life Prison Church, 408 Maple St., Pella, IA 50219**

You can also make an online gift: <http://www.newlife-prison.org/donate>



*continued from front*

in the prison. Through the years, my husband, Dwight, and I have been active in going into the prison and have been involved in Brothers in Blue programs. I have been so blessed and privileged to be part of this organization that brings God's word into this place where many are searching for life change.

### **Keith Van Gent** (Administrative Deacon & Treasurer)

I was raised on a farm near Otley, Iowa. I attended the Pella school system and graduated from Pella High School in 1977. I married Jeannetta (Netta) Van Gent in 1989, and we have three children. Kurtis is married to Brittny; they live in Erie, Colorado, and have two children: Korey (age five) and Adalyn (three). Kris is married to Dana. They own Iowa Bike Co. in Pella, and Dana is also an attorney at Kreykes Law Office. They have a three-year-old son, Porter, and another on the way who will arrive in July. Our daughter, Emily, is the youngest. She worked at Many Hands for Haiti for five years and currently works at Pella Corp.

Netta does interior design. She loves designing and decorating homes. I worked for Hy-Vee for 41 years and retired in 2017. We've lived in seven different Iowa towns, moving around with Hy-Vee. We now split our time between Iowa and Florida.



I was involved with the M2 Program at the Sioux Falls State Prison for several years before we moved back to Pella. As soon as I met Rick Admiraal at the bike shop, I knew I wanted to spend some of my retirement volunteering with New Life Prison Church.

### **Linda Zuidema** (Administrative Deacon)

My husband was the first to be involved in prison ministry at Newton Correctional Facility. He enjoyed the weekly Tuesday Bible studies and the Brothers in Blue program, which involved three days of intense Bible study and confronting the prisoners with the living Jesus. He always encouraged me to go to the Bible studies with him. I was concerned about the barbed wires and locked doors. And, of course, the prisoners themselves. How would I be received? But I found a place full of the Holy Spirit, joyful singing, and earnest Bible study. COVID severely curtailed the programs. It was a difficult time. But God is faithful, and the inside church prevailed in their hearts and lives. We are still quite limited in some ways we do not understand, but we still see lives changing and faith growing!



### **Marv Goodyk** (Administrative Deacon)

I have been involved in prison ministry since November 1999. My first involvement was with the IFI program, mentoring eight Class 3 inmates from the beginning until their graduation. I also assisted in teaching computer classes. Then my wife joined me, and we taught various classes, including listening/communication skills, basic math, and Bible studies. We also mentored a few before and after release. I have been involved with New Life since its beginning. I have led Bible studies and worship services at various times at both Newton Correctional Facility and the Correctional Release Center. I have also served as a spiritual director for Brothers in Blue, which has allowed me to serve in other facilities in Iowa and South Dakota.

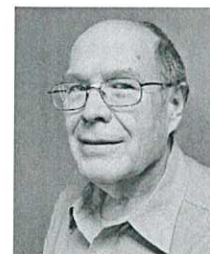
What I love about the ministry is being able to worship with the men. I always come away blessed. We have also gotten to know several of the men personally and shared friendships with them after their release. One of the original eight men I mentored in IFI now lives in Nebraska (near Sioux City), and he came to help us move into our new home a few weeks ago. He is involved in missions and prison ministry. What a joy to see men turn their lives around and become workers in the Kingdom. It is a privilege to be used by God in this way.



### **Pastor Sheldon Starkenburg** (Governing Elder)

I have served as Calvary's minister of congregational life and outreach since 1999. I grew up in South Dakota and graduated from Dordt University and Calvin Seminary. In 2022, I retired and now spend most of my time doing pastoral care, particularly among those who have a bit more life experience. I consider it a privilege to walk with our members through times of joy and loss, and I enjoy finding ways to share God's love with those in the Pella community.

I have two daughters: Regina, who is the program director at Wildwood Hills Ranch, and Ramona, who still lives at home because of her special needs. I enjoy fishing and traveling, especially to the mountains.



### **Max Killoren** (Governing Elder)

What I love about prison ministry is that God has given me a chance to be part of His plan to help those who are struggling with life, seeking a New Life. I have been involved with Bible studies and Brothers in Blues weekends. When we were shut out of the prison for a time, God kept on with the study groups. That's when I realized God might want me to serve, but He does not need me to serve.







# MCCA Newsletter

MEXICAN CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S AID

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

**SPRING  
2025**

*Serving the needy children of Baja since 1964*



## **A Message from Paul Vela President of the Board of Directors**

Good evening, everyone, my Name is Paul Vela and if you have no idea who I am... you're reading the wrong newsletter (just kidding, mostly).

I will be serving my 3rd term as President of the Board of Directors in 2025, breaking a decade-long precedent. It's my understanding that this precedent was set as it was a way to safeguard against a human centered agenda being set. The only agenda I plan on pushing is keeping our Christ-centered approach to ministry work with a focus on

recruiting the next wave of volunteers (preferably ones with young backs) to help lighten the load and work towards expanding our faithful Donor base.

What hasn't changed is that my favorite part of the month is circling up with 40-50 of my brothers and sisters, many of us would have probably never met, to pray together for traveling mercies, praying for a chance to see God at work, thankful for the opportunity to be His hands, His feet. Thankful to be called by our father to share the love of Jesus with "the least of these." In fact, those kids bless us more than we could ever possibly bless them...

Charles Shinski, whom has taken on the role of Vice President starting this year, still calls me El Presidente. And with the title comes a certain responsibility to accurately describe what we are seeing at the border. Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has deployed over 10,000 members of the Mexican National Guard and they have strategically deployed to the points of entry. Our drivers usually cross at the Otay Mesa and Tecate points of entry and they witnessed first-hand the diligence of these national guardsmen, some of them were even searched. We anticipate this being the new normal for the foreseeable future. God has already prepared the road for us; it's up to us to get in the truck and drive!

The late Jerry Hamil said, "There never was one person who really took strong leadership, but rather it was God using the talents of one or another at different times and places to do His work" and it is my prayer that we continue that sentiment. Join me in prayer that, God continues to call men and women to continue the mission of MCCA, to be obedient to His call to care for children in need by supplying those in Baja California with food, scriptures and the opportunity to know the love of Christ.

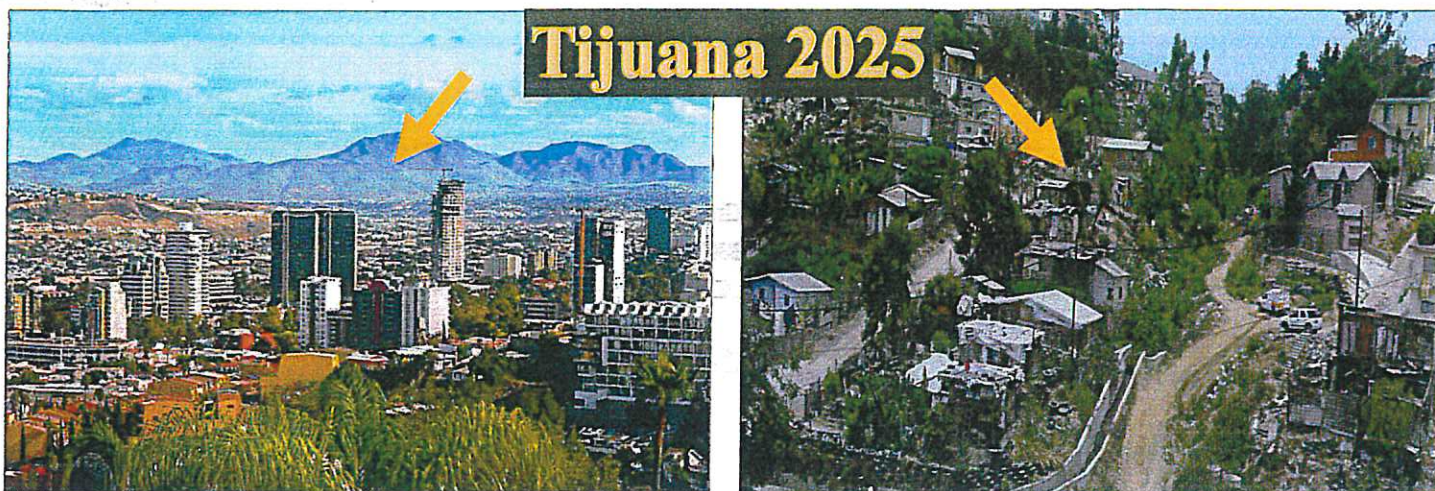
I pray these things in His Great name, and in the name of Jesus, Amen.

**Tax deductible donations can be made by visiting our website at <http://mccaredlands.org/>**

Founded in 1964 in Redlands, CA., the 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, clothing 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. Accounting services and other administrative costs are all paid with cash back rewards when we buy our food with Credit Cards in Mexico.

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





From a distance, today's Tijuana cityscape is impressive.

Zoom in a little closer and you see a different story.

Crossing the border into Tijuana via the San Ysidro or Otay Mesa portals, you will encounter a sprawling metropolis of buildings, vehicles and millions of people on the move. TJ has become a relatively modern city with high rise structures, shopping areas, and food establishments. Yet, if you turn off the main roads you will often see a different picture. Many of the people in the area remain in the grip of poverty and suffer deplorable living conditions. The picture on the right is only a mile or two from our border.

It has been reported that there are more than 300 Orphanages in Baja California alone. The organizations we bring food to, report to us that support from the Mexican government is minimal at best or not at all. At the same time, the cost of food in Mexico has risen greatly, just as it has in the U.S. Many of the people who serve in Mexico and care for orphaned and or needy children are struggling to afford the daily need for food. The pictures on the upper right were taken a block from the location where the couple below lives.

Nicki and Elezar



On the TJ run, just a few miles from where we purchase food and load the trucks for our monthly MCCA deliveries, is a destination we call Nicki's Place. Nicki and her husband have a feeding ministry in their neighborhood that the MCCA has been supporting with bulk food donations for many years. Children and family members from these poor neighborhoods are fed a couple times a week. Nicki also hands out gospel tracks in Spanish that we provide for her. The tracks inform the people about the love of Jesus Christ and the message of Salvation through Him. They prepare and feed large numbers of needy kids and families each week. Nicki and Elezar are full of the love of Christ. Like Jesus did when He walked among us, they humbly serve, without fanfare, in the trenches of hunger and poverty where children and families live. Beautiful.

"If you extend your soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul, then your light shall dawn in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as the noonday."

Isaiah 58:10



Picture to the left taken in December 2017 shows, Warren Arnett, his son Jim, Janet and Dennis Morgan, Judy Arnett, Noemi (Nicki) Moreno and husband Elezar.

### 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.

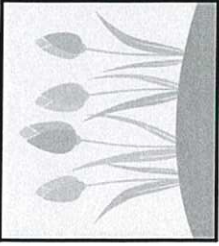
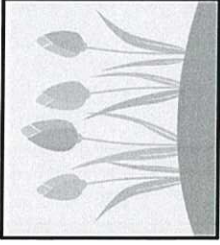





### MCCA Executive Board Contacts


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Facebook:  
Web Site:

<https://www.facebook.com/MCCA1964>  
<http://mccaredlands.org/>



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>  <h1>May</h1>  </div>						
4 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School Recognition & Picnic	5 Council, Elder & Deacon Meetings	6  <i>Dorothy V's Birthday</i>	7 Games Day	8  Love, INC Foundation Classes	9  Council Agenda Items Due	10  <i>Elizabeth B's Birthday</i>
11 Prayer Service (am) 	12	13	14	15  Love, INC Foundation Classes	16 OSCI Graduation 	17
18 Prayer Service (am) Worship Comm. Mtng. 	19	20	21 Games Day	22 PCGS Graduation 	23	24 
25 Prayer Service (am)	26 Pancake Breakfast	27  <i>Linda VV's Birthday</i>	28	29  Love, INC Foundation Classes	30 Council Agenda Items Due	31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Prayer Service (am)	2 Vacation Bible School @ GNC Blood Drive  Council, Elder & Deacon Mtngs.	3 Vacation Bible School @ GNC	4 Vacation Bible School @ GNC Games Day	5 Vacation Bible School @ GNC	6 Vacation Bible School @ GNC (Parents are invited to the AM Opening Exercises)	7 Men's Bible Study
8 Prayer Service (am) TEC Meeting – aft. Homestead	9	10	11	12 Love, INC Foundation Classes	13	14
15 Prayer Service (am)	16	17	18 Games Day	19 Love, INC Foundation Classes	20	21
22 Prayer Service (am) TEC Meeting – aft.  Ken DG's Birthday	23	24 Ice Cream Social	25	26 Love, INC Foundation Classes	27	28
29 Prayer Service (am) TEC Meeting – aft.	30			Love, INC Foundation Classes		



# June

