

MAURICE MOMENTS | SEPTEMBER 2020

# SPOKEN KEN WORD

GOD'S WORD  
IN GOD'S WORLD



*sermon series*

THIS YEAR WE ARE IMMERSING OURSELVES IN THE WORDS THAT THE PROPHETS HAVE SPOKEN. THE NECESSITY TO HEAR THESE TIMELY WORDS IS SO IMPORTANT FOR US RIGHT NOW. SO WE WILL BE HEARING FROM ELIJAH, ISAIAH, AND MORE PROPHETS AND HEAR WHAT THEY ARE CALLING US TO DO IN THIS TIME. MAY WE ATTUNE OUR HEARTS TO HEAR THE INFALLIBLE SPOKEN WORD OF GOD.

# MRC FAMILY NEWS

## Our members who are celebrating an "Over 80" birthday this month:

**Bill Mulder**  
907 5th St SE  
Orange City, IA 51041  
\*Bill will celebrate his 94th birthday on  
September 1



### Hospitalizations & On Going Health Concerns...

- ◆ Val Dykstra, Brent De Kok, Isaac Schmidt, Bryan Van Gelder, Linda Vander Laan, Lori Hartman, Karson Cleveringa, Teagyn Roorda, Colton Roorda, Harriet Vande Kieft, and Ruth Heidebrink. Also please continue to pray for our elderly who are confined to their residences during this time.

### Congratulations...

- ◆ Congratulations to **Eric & Jen Cleveringa** on the birth of a baby boy, Karson Henry, born on July 30! After some time in the hospital, Karson was welcomed home by big brothers Camden, Creighton, and Kinnick. God's blessings to you all!

### Sympathies...

- ◆ We extend our sympathies to **the family of Edith Kuiken** in her passing. Prayers for family and loved ones during this time. May they experience comfort and peace.
- ◆ We extend our sympathies to **the Haverdink families** in the passing of Greg's mom, Thelma. We pray for comfort in the loss of their mother and grandmother. Greg & Laura Haverdink, Caleb & Jill Haverdink, and Jon and Erin Haverdink, as well as other relatives and friends.
- ◆ We extend our sympathies to **Donna & Steve Schaap** as Donna's brother Mark was taken off life support and passed away. We pray for comfort & peace for loved ones during this unimaginably difficult time.

### Congregation Thank You Notes

- ◆ **Don & Sue De Kok** - A heartfelt THANK YOU to all of you who supported Brent De Kok through the 5K Run that Laura and Becky planned. Sue and I say "thank you from the bottom of our hearts". And to all of you who have prayed for Brent and us over these last years, who have sent cards, and who have given us words of encouragement, we say "thank you from the bottom of our hearts"! It is so good to belong to the family of God.
- ◆ **Michael & Carrie Vander Schaaf** - We would like to thank everyone who prayed for our family during our girls' recent medical procedures, as well as for their continuing recovery! Healing comes only through the Great Physician & we greatly appreciate those who interceded on our behalf. Thank you!
- ◆ **Alvis Van Beek** - I would like to thank all those concerned for the cards and prayers during these trying times on the loss of my son. Words cannot express my appreciation. Thanks again.
- ◆ **Lori Van Gorp and The Ronald McDonald House** - Thank you to everyone who donated items to the Ronald McDonald House. They were shocked and grateful for the large amount of items donated by MRC folks. They felt truly blessed. Thank you!
- ◆ **Greg & Laura Haverdink** - Thank you to everyone who expressed their condolences with a visit, sympathy card, or gift of food after the passing of our mother, Thelma Haverdink. Your prayers, kindness, and support is much appreciated! We definitely feel cared for by our church family.

# MRC HAPPENINGS

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## **MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT - NURSERY MINISTRY**

Parenting is full of joyful moments, but also tiring and challenging moments, especially during a church service!

The nursery ministry during church allows parents to worship with the body of believers, while their children ages 0-3 have a safe place to move, make noise, and have fun! This has been a blessing to so many couples in the past, and we are excited to be able to offer it once again!

Thank you to all the nursery volunteers for your time given to this ministry. If anyone would like to be added to the Nursery Volunteer list, please contact Lisa Smit. Thanks!

***Speaking of nursery...below is the schedule for September!  
Also note that we now have one nursery. The other has turned into a much needed classroom.***



	<b>Volunteers</b>
<b>Sept. 6</b>	Aaron & Marissa Maassen and family
<b>Sept. 13</b>	AJ & Lisa Smit and family
<b>Sept. 20</b>	Karen Leusink, Ciana Van Donkelaar, Anna Mulder
<b>Sept. 27</b>	Emily Maassen, Maddie Schwarck, Haley Holverson



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## **EXPANDED WORSHIP & PRAYER NIGHTS**

Nights of worship, prayer, & intercession are STARTING AT MAURICE!  
September 21 will be our launch evening. We will begin at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.  
Stay tuned for more details in your bulletin and come expectant!

***“Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*** Philippians 4:5-7



## A LETTER FROM THE DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR

MRC Family,

On the precipice of a new ministry year, I write to you acknowledging the current reality, recomunicating our commitments as leaders to both congregation and community, and inviting you to join us in living out the unique call of MRC for such a time as this.

Our Consistory Retreat theme was "Contagious Faith", with a two-fold focus on Care for the Flock (MRC) and Outreach to the Community (Maurice). At the time of the Consistory Retreat (January 2020), we had no idea how spot on that theme would come to be. Since March, so much has changed. As the pandemic continues, it is clear that "normal" is relative, changing day to day. Even so, what has not changed is our call to be the Church – to share the love and Gospel message of Jesus with a world that so desperately needs it and Him.

The Staff and Consistory of MRC are committed to:

Mission – Helping People come to Christ, Grow in Christ, and Belong to His Family

Vision – Following God, Loving Others

Values – Worship, Discipleship, Fellowship & Service

As leaders, we have been considering and conversing at length about how to continue to carry out the call that God has placed on us as a congregation, in light of our current reality. We are doing our best to plan for both contingencies and parallel ways of engaging with God and each other.

Though our plans are still a work in progress, I can share a brief overview of the Fall as it pertains to Sunday discipleship ministries, to give you a sense of the direction we are headed. For information specifically related to Children's, Youth and Wednesday night ministries, stay tuned to updates from Jon and Bonnie.

First, the Staff is working toward a unified discipleship approach. What does that mean? Well, I am glad you asked. Basically, we are streamlining discipleship, so that all age groups every Sunday will be presented with the same content. (For example, if the sermon is about Elijah and Elisha, the Sunday School curriculum for that week (for all age groups) will also explore the story of Elijah and Elisha.) There are benefits to this approach (especially in a time of pandemic) that can already be identified: (1) Opportunity for greater and longer retention due to being exposed to the same content in different ways multiple times; (2) Opportunity for Biblical conversations to occur across generations; (3) Opportunity for conversations to continue from church to home all week and beyond because the whole family is processing the same content.

In line with the unified discipleship approach, there will be a Sunday School class offered for adults and youth to "Deep Dive". There is not enough time in a 20-30 minute sermon to unpack all that a biblical passage or story has to offer. So, we take it beyond the sermon and service into the Sunday School hour in order to dive deeper into the content. This class will take place in the Sanctuary, to accommodate social distancing and be more visible, invitational and accessible. Each week, the facilitator and format will change in order to best access the content. Formats could include, but are not limited to, small group discussion with prompts, guided prayer, expert insight, drama reenactments of the story, etc. (the possibilities are endless). I am excited to see how God will work in and through the various facilitators and formats to build God's relationship with us as well as our relationships with each other.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, here we go into a new year of ministry. We know that the year before us will look drastically different than years past. We want you to know that we will do our best to navigate it, reevaluating and recalibrating as we go, and we humbly ask for grace for the times when we may fall short despite our best efforts. We're a family and we're in it together.

In closing, I pray this blessing upon you for the new ministry year:

MRC Family, you are God's servants, gifted with dreams and visions. Upon you rests the grace of God like flames of fire. Love and serve the Lord in the strength of the Spirit. May the peace of Christ be with you, the strong arms of God sustain you, and the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen you in every way. Amen.

Grace & Peace-

-Missy Dokter, Pastor of Discipleship

## EDITH L. KUIKEN

Mrs. Edith Kuiken, age 96, of Orange City, passed away on Sunday, August 9, 2020, at the Prairie Ridge Care Center in Orange City.

There was a graveside service on Thursday, August 13, at 12:30pm, at the Sherman Township Cemetery near Maurice. The Rev. Wick Hubers officiated. Visitation without the family was on Wednesday, August 12, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm, at the Oolman Funeral Home in Orange City.

Edith Laurene was born on July 15, 1924, in Alton, the daughter of Herbert M. and Kate (Van Rooyen) Huisman. She attended the Newkirk Consolidated School through the eighth grade, when her family moved. They lived in numerous communities around northwest Iowa.

On February 20, 1947, she married David Maynard Kuiken in Rock Valley. They made their home on a farm between Maurice and Orange City for most of their married life. In later years, they moved into Maurice and in May of 2011, they became residents of the Landsmeer Ridge Retirement Community in Orange City. In April of 2014, David entered the Prairie Ridge Care Center in Orange City. He passed away on February 19, 2015, one day short of their 68<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. In May of last year, Edith moved to the Prairie Ridge Care Center.

Mrs. Kuiken was a member of the First Reformed Church in Maurice. She participated in the Women's Society and was chairman of many committees over the years. She and her husband enjoyed wintering together in Mission Bell, Texas, for thirty years. She also liked to read, crochet, sew, and do needle point and embroidery work.

Survivors include her three children, Arlin Kuiken, of Alton; Karen, and her husband, Henry Leusink, of Orange City; and Leon Kuiken, and his wife, Terri, of Maurice; a daughter-in-law, Jolene Kuiken, of Orange City; six grandchildren, Julie, and her husband, Steve Vis; Kristi Kuiken; Brent Kuiken, and his wife, Michelle; Mike Leusink; Steve Leusink, and his wife, Amber; and Greg Leusink, and his wife, Jennifer; fourteen great-grandchildren; three sisters, Janet De Groot, of Hull; Harriet Kleinhesselink, of Orange City; and Wilma, and her husband, Stan De Boom, of Le Mars; a sister-in-law, Greta Huisman, of Hospers; David's siblings, Goldie Colenbrander, of Sioux Center; and Wilma Ruisch, of Minneapolis, Minnesota; his sister-in-law, Wanda Kuiken, of Maurice; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a sister and her husband, Mina and Sam Renes; two brothers, Jerry Huisman and Matthew Huisman, and his wife, Gert; seven brothers-in-law, Don De Groot; Kenneth Kleinhesselink; Orville Kuiken, and his wife, Harriet; Stanley Kuiken, and his wife, Ruth; Wilson Kuiken; Arie Colenbrander; and Howard Ruisch; and a sister-in-law, Margaret, and her husband, Ed Dykshorn.



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## SUNDAY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Sunday school begins on September 13! There are a few changes happening:

- ◆ Three-year old's through kindergarten will continue to go to room 9 for a time of singing. Please bring your child there as soon as the service is over! After singing they will go to their classrooms. *Parents please pick your child up from their classroom at 11:30.*
- ◆ First grade through third grade students will go directly to their rooms and have their classroom time first and then go to the multipurpose room at 11:15 for a time of singing! *Parents, please pick your child up at the multipurpose room at 11:30.*
- ◆ Fourth and fifth grade student will go directly to room 22 when the service is over. They will have their lesson and then go to their classrooms. They will join the first through third grade students in the multipurpose room for a time of singing at 11:15. *Parents, please pick your children up from the multipurpose room at 11:30.*

*\*Note: As you can see from the list on the following pages, there are many classes that still need a teacher. Some teachers prefer to team teach, so if there is an empty line, it means that one more teacher is needed to team teach this class. Be in prayer for people to step up and fill these positions. If you are interested, please contact Bonnie Wolf today!*

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**In Sunday school, we will be working on memorizing our key passage from the Bible.** Please help your child memorize the scripture. Learn it as a family! The passage will be the same for several weeks. All ages (3 years to 5th grade) will work on the same passage.

For September 13, 20, 27, and October 4, the verse is: ***I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.*** Isaiah 42:8

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**New challenge for 1st-5th grade:** A new "sermon notes" page will be available for students to grab when they enter the sanctuary. Encourage your child to take notes during the sermon! Take this with them to Sunday school as they will receive "extra credit" and their name will be put into a drawing!

**We are so excited that Pastor Ross will be preaching on the same topic the kids will be learning about in Sunday school! What a great topic for your kids and you to talk about at Sunday dinner!**



## AWANA HAPPENINGS

**MRC Awana Vision - Making connections with children as they come to Christ, grow in Christ, and belong to His family.**

September 13 begins our year for Wednesday night fall programming! Times have stayed the same. We will meet from 6:20 to 7:30. Here are a few things you need to know:

### CHECK-IN:

Check-in will be at the tables between the FLC and the sanctuary. Secretaries will be at each table and will direct the kids what to do. It will be the same every week, so kids will soon learn the routine! Things they will check will be:

- ◆ Attendance
- ◆ Bible
- ◆ Workbook/pencil
- ◆ Offering
- ◆ Shirt/vest
- ◆ Cinch sack (*these will not be provided this year, please bring your own*)

**Awana bucks for Awana Mart  
will be given to students  
checking in with all these items!**

Kids may check-in between 6:00 and 6:20 and are required to be in the sanctuary at 6:20.

Students will check in at their "color" table:

- ◆ Cubbies—ages 3, 4, and 5—blue table
- ◆ Sparks—kindergarten through second grade—red table
- ◆ T&T—third and fourth graders—green table
- ◆ EE students may go directly to room 22 at 6:20

**Due to COVID-19**, we will be taking each child's temperature at check-in time. If the child has a temp of 100+, they will be sent home. We will also have each child use hand sanitizer after they have dropped in their offering and before they receive their Awana Bucks!

Please remind your child of ways to stay safe and healthy when they are at Awana! Thanks!

After checking in, students may go into the sanctuary to watch a video until opening begins. Students may not be running around Sunday school room area before Awana. Please help us enforce this rule!

It is important for you to work with your student and help them to memorize the scripture passage that they are working on with their mentor. The mentor should have the passage circled in the child's handbook. Once they have mastered this passage, the mentor will star it and move onto the next passage (parents, please do not put a star next to a passage you feel your child knows. This is done by the mentor and will help with any confusion).

**New this year:** We will have Scripture Listeners each week to listen to your child recite the passage he/she has memorized. There will be a list at the check-in table of students that are ready to recite their verse. The student will earn a badge if they can say their verse to the Scripture Listener. The badge will not be sewn on that night but will be sewn on the next time the sewing ladies are sewing on badges. We hope this process makes things go smoother than last year! Thank you for your patience with this process.

### PICK UP:

The same policy will be enforced this year. Please help us with the dismissal process by entering the sanctuary and picking up your child. No children will be excused from the sanctuary unless the parents are there to pick them up. When the prayer is finished, the back doors will be opened and this is a signal for parents to come in and get their child. Mentors are asked to stay with their students until they are picked up.

There will be a meeting in the Fellowship Hall on September 9 at 6:00 pm for Awana volunteers. We will discuss a few changes being made this year as well as review some of the basics of Awana.



The Children's Christmas Program is December 13 at 5:00 pm. If you are interested in helping with this program, please contact Bonnie Wolf today!



## 2020-2021 SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS LIST

### 3 year olds - Room 4

**Teachers:** Jessica Wielenga/Colette Hofmeyer

Kinnick Cleveringa (June 29)  
Steele De Weerd (May 27)  
Sara Vander Schaaf (June 26)  
Ben Haverdink (September 6)  
Alora Haverdink (September 6)  
Joshua Wielenga (can begin after January 30)

### 3 year olds - Room 5

**Teachers:** Carrie Vander Schaaf/\_\_\_\_\_

Blakely Vander Broek  
Nolan Cleveringa (August 28)  
Liam Leusink (June 1)  
Jacie Plendl (June 30)  
Gabriel Reuter (July 24)  
Cordelia Vander Stelt (August 17)

### 4 year olds - Room 6

**Teachers:** Sarah Mars/\_\_\_\_\_

Malia Maassen  
Elijah Jensen  
Jamison Smit  
Grant Holtrop  
Adler Maassen

### 4 year olds - Room 7

**Teachers:** \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Avea Vermeer  
Ruth Wielenga  
Tate Vande Kieft  
Dylan Vis  
Jaylynn Mars

### TK - Room 18

**Teacher:** Cassie Reuter

Taylor Cleveringa  
Scarlett Peters  
Benjamin Vande Kieft

### Kindergarten - Room 17

**Teachers:** Laura Vander Stelt/\_\_\_\_\_

Benjamin Vande Kieft  
Charlotte Van Klompenburg  
Levi Plendl  
Hannah Vander Schaaf  
Ean Vermeer  
Marley Bartlett  
Carissa Mulenburg  
Addilyn Wielenga

### Kindergarten - Room 11

**Teachers:** \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Brea Leusink  
Becker Vermeer  
Jonathan Groen  
Brooke Jensen  
Julianna Leusink  
Creighton Cleveringa  
Harper Reuter

### First Grade - Room 16

**Teachers:** \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

McKenna Maassen  
Arianna Muth  
Avery Gebhard  
Jade Kleyer  
Ava Schaap  
Star White

### First Grade - Room 12

**Teachers:** Emily Maassen

Khloe Hofmeyer  
Johnny Haverdink  
Easton Rozeboom  
Carter Dykstra  
Joanna Vande Kieft

**Second Grade - Room 15**

**Teachers:** \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Cambrea Van Donkelaar  
Skylar Schmidt  
Brandon Smit  
Kaden Hargens  
Trenton Vis  
Trinity Haverdink  
Zoe Vermeer

**Second Grade - Room 20**

**Teacher: Cherie Van Donkelaar**

Jace Oolman  
Camden Cleveringa  
Eryn Kleyer  
Destiny Hooyer  
Rylee Smit  
Alekye Maassen  
Henry Vander Stelt

**Third Grade - Room 19**

**Teacher: Casie Van Der Weide**

Blake Leusink  
Kingsten Van Oort  
Cooper Steckelberg  
Maelyn Leusink  
Kale Smit  
Teagyn Roorda

**Third Grade - Room 26**

**Teachers: Tonya Venema/** \_\_\_\_\_

Brynlee Eisma  
Mariah Maassen  
Carter Vande Kieft  
Reid Wielenga  
Ashley Muth  
Peyton Maassen

**Fourth Grade - Room 22**

**Teacher: Cindy Van Der Weide**

Joshua Gebhard  
Kennedy Cleveringa  
Isaac Schmidt  
Joey Dekkers  
Levi Dykstra  
Tessa Kamerman  
Gavin Leusink  
Matthew White

**Fourth Grade - Room 13**

**Teachers:** \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Noah Leusink  
Kaelyn Schmidt  
Alex Feenstra  
Reagan Holtrop  
Cooper Bartlett  
Jacob Maassen  
Alex Aberson

**Fifth Grade - Room B**

**Teachers:** \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Candra Van Donkelaar  
Paxton Jager  
Kendra Baartman  
Asaiah Smit  
Tricia Jansma  
McKenzie Van Gorp  
Eli Eisma  
Cambrie Vis  
Anna Groen

**Fifth Grade - Room 27**

**Teacher: Lee Maassen**

Aric Maassen  
Alison Muth  
Mya Vander Sluis  
Addaley Maassen  
Brayden Oolman  
Morgan Cleveringa  
Micah Haverdink  
Ayla Brinkman  
Crystian Dokter

**Lead Littles in Singing** - Sara Jansma

**Play Piano for Littles** - Jill Muilenburg

**Teach Large Group Littles** - Sara Jansma

**Lead Older Singing** - Cara Venema

**Teach 1st-3rd Group** - \_\_\_\_\_

**Teach 4th-5th Group** - Cindy Van Der Weide

***If your child was not on a list, please contact  
Bonnie Wolf. Apologies for anyone overlooked.***

# JR GAP MINSITRIES



**“Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by His vast strength. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil.” Ephesians 6:10-11**



## September Schedule

Sept. 9 - Parents Meeting  
Sept. 16 - Youth Group Kick-Off  
Sept. 23 - Theme Introduction: *Battlefield*  
Sept. 30 - *Into the Battle: Get Ready*

## September Lunch Schedule

Sept. 16 - Jaden B, Jenna DJ, Jackson F, Jacob H  
Sept. 23 - Kortney H, Karter H, Eden K, Addy L  
Sept. 30 - Ayden M, Seth M, Aiden M, Kelsey O  
*\*\*Lunch is 2 dozen cookies/bars\*\**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:



**Jr. GAP & Sr. High Parents Meeting - September 9, 7 pm in The Refuge** - Parents of this year's Jr. GAP and Sr. High students, we will be having a parent's meeting on September 9th at 7:00 pm in The Refuge. This will provide information to you as parents about the upcoming year, including this year's theme and the 2020-2021 youth group schedule. If you are unable to make it or have any questions involving the night, please let Jon Eveland or Ben Henker (summer intern) know.

**COVID-19 Precautions** - This fall, both Jr GAP and Sr High will be putting some safety and health measures in place on Wednesday nights concerning COVID-19. We plan to utilize a check in station as students and adult leaders arrive at the door of the Refuge for Jr GAP and the doors for the Sr High Youth Room for Sr High where we will do temperature checks (with no contact, quick read thermometers) and to ask them to use hand sanitizer before they enter for youth group. The temperature checks went very well recently for our Jr GAP mission trip to Sioux Falls, as we did them before we left and each morning on the trip. No decisions have been determined in terms of how the room will be set up or if we will have social distancing guidelines in place with the chairs at this time. We will also have single use masks if students would like one of those as well, however, these will not be required at this time. Students are more than welcome to bring their own mask if they wish. In doing temperature checks and using hand sanitizer we hope to honor, respect and love those in our midst who are very cautious when it comes to COVID-19 for whatever their reason. We desire to make sure we are doing our due diligence when it comes to helping people feel safe, comfortable and welcome at youth group – which has and will always be one of our major goals for the students each and every Wednesday night.



**Pop** - This year again, we are asking each student to be responsible for bringing two 12 packs of pop, or a 24 pack (cans) on the first night of Jr. GAP on September 16. We will be stacking the packs of pop next to the fridge in The Refuge. **Money raised for pop cans churchwide will be used as financial assistance for Jr. GAP & Sr. Highers going on summer trips.**

**Sub Sandwich Fundraiser - September 9-30** - Our annual Sub Sandwich Fundraiser is upon us! **Parents, you will receive order forms on Wednesday, September 9 at the Parents Meeting.**

This fundraiser has been an awesome fundraiser for our group through the years, and the money raised will go towards reducing the cost of Jr. GAP's mission trip come next summer. As we have done the last few years, the student who sells the most will have their mission trip covered. Looking forward to God's faithfulness in this fundraiser again this year!



**Sunday School begins Sunday,  
September 13!**

## Jr. GAP September Birthdays

Tavia Bruning - September 4      Ben Bartlett - September 20

# SR HIGH MINSITRIES



**“Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by His vast strength. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil.” Ephesians 6:10-11**



## September Schedule

- Sept. 9 - Parents Meeting
- Sept. 16 - Youth Group Kick-Off
- Sept. 23 - Theme Introduction: *Battlefield*
- Sept. 30 - *Into the Battle: Get Ready*

## September Lunch Schedule

- Sept. 16 - Tye B, Maddie D, Landon H, Cullen K
  - Sept. 23 - Brooklyn L, Rachel L, Katie P, Zach R
  - Sept. 30 - Caleb S, Brandon VS, Hope VZ, Autumn VD
- \*\*Lunch is 2 dozen cookies/bars\*\***

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:



**Jr. GAP & Sr. High Parents Meeting - September 9, 7 pm in The Refuge** - Parents of this year's Jr. GAP and Sr. High students, we will be having a parent's meeting on September 9th at 7:00 pm in The Refuge. This will provide information to you as parents about the upcoming year, including this year's theme and the 2020-2021 youth group schedule. If you are unable to make it or have any questions involving the night, please let Jon Eveland or Ben Henker (summer intern) know.

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**Pop** - This year again, we are asking each student to be responsible for bringing two 12 packs of pop, or a 24 pack (cans) on the first night of Sr. High on September 16. We will be stacking the packs of pop under the counter in the Sr. High kitchen. **Money raised for pop cans churchwide will be used as financial assistance for Jr. GAP & Sr. Highers going on summer trips.**

**Traveling Nativity** - The Youth Ministry Team is having ongoing discussion regarding the Traveling Nativity this December. Because of our current reality, we are evaluating whether this will be a possibility this year. Stay tuned for an announcement in the coming weeks.



**Sunday School begins Sunday, September 13!**

**Sr. High September Birthdays**  
Breanna Jansma - September 8  
Kaden Steckelberg - September 10

Logan Feenstra - September 22  
Cody Van Engen - September 22  
AJ Schrock - September 27



# MOMENTS IN MISSIONS

The **special offerings** for the September & October are for our local schools. September is for our local public schools, October is for our Christian schools.

Please clearly mark your check as "special" in the memo

Preschools, grade schools, high schools, and colleges around the area are getting started for the year. The start of school marks a new cycle and change for many of us and a new anxiety this year with many more unknowns. As students, parents, grandparents, teachers, staff, or community members, we all have a role to play in relation to school starting. At MRC, we are in mission with area school programs through special offerings, as well as helping supply materials and meals for those who are unable to afford the expenses that come with school and tuition costs.



In addition, pray with us for our schools in this fall season.

***Lord, we know you hold the future and walk with us even now on this unpredictable path of the pandemic. We trust you work through the most difficult of seasons and never abandon us to navigate life's challenges alone.***

***As we look to a new school year, we worry about the ongoing impact of COVID-19. It seems to be a time of no right answers, no clear good choices and no comprehensive way for parents, educators and administrators to meet the pressing needs of students, teachers, staff and families. We do not want children to fall further behind in their learning. We do not want to put caregivers in the position of choosing between going to work or tending to their children. We do not want to endanger the health of any in our community. Already stretched resources are pushed to the limit as we attempt to reduce class sizes, expand the ways content is delivered and seek to enact needed safety precautions.***

***We look to you, Lord, to take, bless and multiply our efforts to educate and nurture your children. We look to you, Lord, who gives us the peace that passes understanding, hears the cries of the hurting and promises that small amounts of faith can precipitate large, life-giving change. We look to you, loving God, for wisdom, for courage, for inspiration, for creativity.***

***As we make difficult decisions in an unprecedented time, grant us an unshakable commitment to one another, especially to the most vulnerable among us. Send your Spirit to open our eyes to the new thing you are doing. Send your Spirit to open our ears to the voices we need most to hear. Send your Spirit to open our hearts to the profound love you have for us all so that everything we do in this time of fear, anxiety and uncertainty reveals your compassion, kindness and grace. Send your Spirit to comfort and direct us as we humbly look to you for guidance and strength. Amen.***

## Update from Brad Schelling with First Priority

Dear Friends at MRC,

I hope you are healthy and well. I didn't send you an email at the beginning of July because there was so much up in the air for schools and clubs for this fall. Well... there is still a LOT up in the air for school this fall, but our 2019-2020 school year numbers are in and I couldn't wait to share! Here they are:

**833** total First Priority clubs - in person before March

**212** Virtual First Priority clubs launched online during quarantine

**3,636** total students were trained for both in person and virtual clubs

**7,924** students responded to the Good News of Jesus this past school year through a FP club.



We are humbled by how God continues to use the ministry tool of First Priority to bring hope to teenagers. When things shut down in March, we didn't know what to expect, but God is good and we pushed through. No matter how things come together this fall, the ministry of First Priority will continue to empower Christian students to share the Gospel of Jesus with their peers at school. Please pray with us as we continue to press into God's path for us.

With Hope, **Brad Schelling**

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### **A thank you from Rich Koele with Hope Haven for excess funds given from Costa Rica Trip for future shipments which were recently used in a shipment to Liberia along with farm equipment.**



Dear Friends in Christ,

On behalf of Hope Haven International, I want to thank Maurice Reformed Church for your recent donation of \$3,997.70 for wheelchairs to Liberia.

Your generosity bears present-day witness to the words of the Apostle Paul in Galatians 6:2: "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Through God's provision, the scope of Hope Haven International continues to grow. Thanks to our partners and volunteers, both locally and globally, we have now served in 108 different countries, and to date have delivered over 126,000 wheelchairs to deserving individuals.

We believe that every person, regardless of their abilities, or where they were born, is uniquely created by God. We're privileged to share the love of God through the gift of a wheelchair, often a life-changing moment for the recipient. We recognize the sacrifice made by those who volunteer hours of their time, knowing that their labor will benefit someone who they will likely never meet, and we likewise praise God for the faithful servant hearts of your congregation.

Thank you, for your congregation's generous donation. Your partnership is appreciated.



## THE BANQUET

MRC sent a group of 8 volunteers on July 31st to help make food and serve at the newly opened Banquet West in Sioux Falls. The Banquet West opened in March of this year shortly before the Covid pandemic erupted. As of today, the dining hall remains closed for eating inside; however, each weekday, guests may receive carryout meals. The number of guests has been increasing and is consistently over 200 guests most evenings. On July 31, we served meals to 156 adults and 44 children. Jon, who manages the Banquet West, said the guests he serves are primarily from the low-income housing district on the west side of Sioux Falls. They are often working families who are trying to make ends meet, very friendly, and extremely appreciative for the Banquet West. If you ever feel led to help with the evening meals, Jon said you may sign up online at [thebanquetsf.org](http://thebanquetsf.org). In the current Covid environment, Jon says volunteers are fewer which is understandable, but if you feel led to help, you may do so anytime on an individual basis. Jon's team, as well as the downtown team, are great to work with, and even without the dining room open, we felt blessed to be a part of the meal being served on July 31st.

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## WALK FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

We will be hosting our second annual Walk for Mental Health Awareness on **September 12** at 10:00 am at the Central Park in Sioux Center! This is a family friendly event where we come together as a community to support those who struggle with mental health. There will be a community fair after the mile walk, with snacks provided by a local grocery store. We are partnering with Seasons Behavioral Health and Sioux Center Health, along with many other sponsors. We encourage you to come out for this event. All proceeds of the walk will go to support Camp Autumn in Sutherland. Hope to see you there!



# September 2020

## MRC Mission Prayer Calendar

Prayer notes from our partners in mission locally, regionally, and internationally

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Pray with <b>Brad Schelling</b> and <b>First Priority</b> as they empower Christian students to share the Gospel of Jesus with their peers at school.	2 Pray for God's Spirit to give readiness and renewed strength for <b>teachers and school workers</b> as they begin their new school year.	3 Pray for <b>S family</b> , in the US as they coordinate with representatives in SE Asia to keep their ministry going. Pray for rest and renewal as a family.	4 Pray for wisdom and direction for <b>Sierra Borchers</b> as she begins her work on staff with WYAM in Texas. Pray for God to speak in new ways.	5 Pray with <b>Jon &amp; Erin H</b> as they begin the new school year at Nebraska, to be able to encourage students to draw close to God.
6 Pray for <b>Pastor Missy</b> as she leads discipleship ministries and balances her studies at seminary.	10 Pray for those you work with and work for. Pray for God to open your eyes for ways to be a witness through your work.	8 Pray for our church consistory leaders to seek God's direction for MRC and planning for the new year.	9 Pray for <b>Bonnie, Jon, and the volunteers</b> as they lead our youth. Pray for our kids to see Jesus in a personal way.	Pray for <b>Meggan &amp; Pavlos</b> starting a new school year at Greece at the Bible College. Pray also for the church they assist in worship.	11 Pray with <b>Bob Abel</b> for kids to be freed from sex trade through Remember Nhu programs and to see Jesus' love.	12 Pray with <b>Vasya and Maranda Heytsi</b> that God will bless their house building project and their church ministry during this time.
13 Praise God with <b>Steve and Tara Dekkers</b> that through social media programs Muslims are reading the Bible-22 are following Jesus.	14 Pray for wisdom for the <b>Wilson</b> s in the US- Mark as he teaches his students and Deb working with her staff in Cambodia	15 Pray for God's Spirit to direct <b>Emily &amp; Mike</b> as they serve guests & MRC members behind the scenes.	16 Pray for <b>S &amp; A K</b> on home service. Pray for their translators in Bangladesh as they open their office and return to translating the Bible.	17 Pray for the ministry of <b>Amistad Cristiana</b> within the Hispanic community to be a resource of hope and blessing	18 Pray with <b>John &amp; Lynne Hubers</b> for stability for the Ethiopian seminary, for safety for students, and restored internet during this crisis.	19 Pray with <b>Tom Johnson</b> that solar powered devices through the MH4H in Haiti can bring the Good News and COVID cases will be minimal.
20 Pray for the discipleship ministry of <b>Life Groups</b> at MRC to be engaging, and a spiritual support for families at MRC.	21 Pray for God's love to be felt through staff serving families at the <b>Genesis House and Family Crisis Center</b> .	22 Pray for <b>Pastor Deb Rensink</b> providing spiritual care, offering hope and healing to families affected by abuse.	23 Pray for <b>Pastor Wick</b> as he gives care and support to individuals and families at MRC. Pray for God's love and comfort to be felt.	24 Pray for <b>Brian Renes</b> as he consults with Bible translators. Pray for ongoing good internet connections for work to continue.	25 Pray for each of the food pantries and hunger programs as they meet the needs of the poor and hungry in our community.	26 Pray for the <b>ATLAS</b> staff as they meet with clients dealing with additional stress from the current health crisis.
27 Pray for God's spirit to lead and direct <b>Cara</b> in worship and <b>Pastor Ross</b> in preaching God's Word each week.	28 Pray for <b>World Renew</b> working to provide clean water, soap, food, and health care for the poor during this crisis.	29 Pray for health and safety of our mission partners and the courage to share God's hope and love during this time.	30 Pray for the <b>Words of Hope</b> ministry to be able to bring the gospel message to closed countries.			

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# SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 11:30 AM Staff Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:30 AM Worship Pastor Ross	<b>7</b> 	<b>8</b> 11:30 AM Staff Meeting  7:00 PM Consistory Meeting	<b>9</b> 6:00 PM Awana Volunteers Meeting – Fellowship Hall  7:00 PM Youth Ministries Parents Meeting – Refuge	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10:00 AM Walk for Mental Health Awareness @ Children’s Park in Sioux Center
<b>13 – Sunday School Begins</b> 9:30 AM Worship Pastor Ross  10:45 Sunday School  PM Church Bonfire	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 11:30 AM Staff Meeting	<b>16</b> 5:30 PM Meal 6:20 PM Awana 6:20 PM Jr. GAP 7:50 PM Sr. High	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 5:30 PM Recycled Teens	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:30 AM Worship Pastor Wick  10:45 Sunday School	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 11:30 AM Staff Meeting	<b>23</b> 5:30 PM Meal 6:20 PM Awana 6:20 PM Jr. GAP 7:50 PM Sr. High	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:30 AM Elder’s Breakfast
<b>27</b> 9:30 AM Worship Pastor Ross  10:45 Sunday School	<b>28</b> 1-4 PM Yarn Connection	<b>29</b> 11:30 AM Staff Meeting	<b>30</b> 5:30 PM Meal 6:20 PM Awana 6:20 PM Jr. GAP 7:50 PM Sr. High			