

Community Announcements Continued...

- **Sheldon Mobile Food Bank – next 4 months:** May 6, June 3, July 1, Aug. 5. 4:30-6 pm at Living Water Com. Church in Sheldon.
- **Love INC - What are your family-favorite, budget-friendly recipes?** As a gift for people attending classes through the Life Together Ministry, we are putting together a recipe book. If you have a recipe to share, please email it to jenna@sheldon-loveinc.org. or drop off a paper copy at our office! Also, let us know if you want your name and/or church listed with your recipe. Our goal is to collect at least 50 recipes by May 18!
- **New Roots Ministry Workshop –** At a 5-hr Sat. workshop in Sx Falls May 18, let's dig into the Word, learn to express our God-stories, and interact with those who may be struggling without Him. For info, dates, or to sign-up for Everyday-Ambassadors Practicum, visit www.sfnewroots.com/our-ministries.

Open Hands

Scholar Balthasar Fischer (1912-2001) shared a realization about the significance of praying with open, outstretched hands, an ancient practice. The opposite gesture, a closed fist, is used to threaten others or even inflict violence. We also grasp things in closed fists, refusing to let go, to share, to hold gently or loosely.

When we pray with open hands, Fischer explained, we're saying before God that we renounce "all highhandedness, all pride in [our] own sufficiency, all violence." We hold up empty hands to God, saying, "I have nothing that I have not received from you, nothing that you have not placed in my empty hands. Therefore I do not keep a frantic hold on anything you have given me; therefore, too, I desire not to strike and hurt but only to give and to spread happiness and joy."

A Prayer for Roots

O God, we thirst for you, as dry tree roots thirst for water in hot, dusty soil. Help us send spiritual roots down deep into the grace and knowledge of the One who is the same yesterday and today and forever, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who gives us stability when the earth shakes and the storms of life swirl about us.

Rooted and grounded in your love, and strengthened and comforted by your grace and your Spirit who gives us hope, may we be steadfast and immovable in the work Christ gives us to do, until he comes again. Amen.

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Jesus says, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love" (John 15:9). One way we do that is to gather in Christian community. Welcome, beloved ones!

Today at First

Pastor Brian Dunn leads us in worship today. There will be a Recognition of Sunday School & Catechism Teachers before the Congregational Meeting. C. G. #5 hosts the coffee fellowship.

Next week, Sunday morning, Pastor Brian Dunn will lead our services. We will celebrate Youth Sunday. Care Group #5 hosts the coffee fellowship.

Next week, Sunday evening, we will celebrate Ascension Day here at 6 p.m. along with the congregations from Sibley CRC, Ocheyedan CRC & Immanuel CRC.

Our Church Family

Congratulations to Ben & Kayla Granstra on the birth of a baby girl, **Anistyn Faye Granstra**, born Wednesday, May 1! May the Lord bless this sweet new addition to their family.

Happy Belated Birthday to John R. Kreykes, who celebrated his 92nd birthday this past Thursday, May 2!

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| <u>Nursery Today</u> Ruth K., Amy D., Alivia M. | 5-12 Phil & Courtney L., Damon M. |
| <u>Valet Parking Today</u> Ben Granstra | May 12 Chad Petitt |
| <u>Sound Today</u> Kassy, Olivia, Amelya | May 12 Heynen/Jacob/Josh |

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| <u>Praise Team Today</u> Avery, Ethan, Maci, Boden | 5-12 No Praise Team |
| <u>Cookies May 12</u> Lori G., Rachel G., April H. | 5-19 Sharon H., Julie H., Connie H. |

Offerings only for: Gen. Fund, Christian Ed., Above Quota Missions & Classical Min. Shares. Put in offering box, Treasurer's box, or mail to church (901 9th Street).

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 On May 12, there will be a **Special Offering** to help cover some of the cost of **Kids Fest**.

Activities This Week

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| Sun. | 10:45 AM | Congregational Meeting/Ice Cream Sundaes |
| | 5:00 PM | Evening Worship Service |
| Wed. | 6:15 PM | Elders |
| | 7:00 PM | Deacons |
| | 7:30 PM | Council |

Before the Congregational Meeting, we will recognize the Sunday School & Catechism teachers. Students will be dismissed and served ice cream sundaes by the Discernment Committee. We will then play in the carport w/chalk & bubbles. The Nursery helpers will bring the children to get sundaes. **Once the meeting is finished,** the congregation will be served ice cream sundaes & students can be returned to parents.

Sunday School & Catechism Teachers

Preschool – Kindergarten Meghan Granstra & Rachel Granstra – 10 kids
1st – 4th Grade Courtney Lammers, Brenda Bolkema, & Breanna Cook – 5 kids
5th & 6th Grade Laura Kats – 5 kids **7th & 8th Grade** Shane Hoekstra – 4 kids
9th – 12th Grade Pastor Brian – 8 kids

A Congregational Meeting will be held after the AM service **today** to elect Elders & Deacons for the upcoming term. (Vote for at least 2 for each office.)

Elders: Harlan Bolkema, Keith Habben, Keith Kleinwolterink, Chad Pettitt.

Deacons: Brian Hengeveld, Lance Hoekstra, Ethan Van Holland, Nathan Ver Meer.

If you are unable to attend, place your ballots in a signed/sealed envelope in the Clerk's mailbox by the council room before the meeting today. Ballots on desk.

First CRC Membership/Profession of Faith - If you are interested in making profession of faith, contact Pastor Brian. Classes begin soon; time/dates TBD.

Kids Fest 2024 – Aug. 4-7! We would love to get you involved in serving at Kids Fest, so please fill out an interest sheet so our team can help you get involved. Questions? Ask our Kids Fest Team from 1st – Kassy Dunn & Lindsey Nieuwendorp. Please return completed interest sheets to either Kassy or Lindsey's church mailbox.

Nate & Catherine Schreur family recently had a house fire, (Mr. Schreur teaches PE at SCS). SCS is partnering w/Unity & Sanborn Christian in helping support the Schreur family. Unity has set up an account to take donations for the family, which we may also donate to as well. You may send donations to any Iowa State Bank. You can write a check directly to: Nate & Catherine Schreur, (in memo line add “donation”) or bring cash to any Iowa State Bank. You can also mail a check with the same info. as above to: Iowa State Bank, P.O. Box 276, Sanborn, IA 51248. The Schreur's church is holding an **Impact Night at the Sheldon Pizza Ranch is tomorrow (Mon. 5-8 p.m.)** 10% of sales plus tips will go to the Schreur family.

Unity Christian Announcements:

- **Spring Concert** – Wed., May 8 in the Knight Center. Instrumental portion begins at 7; following a brief intermission the vocal portion begins around 8.
- **FFA Plant Open House** – Fri., May 10, 3:45-6 pm & Sat., May 11 9 am-1 pm. Come and pick up some plants. Freewill offering goes to our FFA Program.

Western Christian Announcements:

- **Spring Drive** – Check “Giving Page” of website: www.westernchristianhs.com. Please contact Brad Vis (605) 359-5704 bradvis@westernchristianhs.com if ?'s.
- **Board Nominations** – At the end of this school year, Tracy Kollis, Jerry Buteyn and Mark Kleinwolterink will be completing their terms on Western Christian's School Board. We thank them for their service. The board is now seeking nominees to replace them. All members of Western's society are invited to submit names for potential nominees for the board. Please submit nominations to board president, Mr. John Vander Haag: john.vanderhaag@westernchristianhs.com. You are encouraged to submit nominations by Fri., June 14. All newly elected trustees shall be approved by the society at the succeeding society meeting in August.

Community Announcements:

- **Choose to Keep Going Women's Conference** – Sat., May 11, 9:30–12:30 p.m. at Faith Com. Church in Sheldon. (506 8th St.). Tickets - \$30. Purchase online at: chooseministry.com/tour or Faith Com. Church or Touch of Hope in Sheldon.
- **Free Sheldon Area Unity Meal – next 4 months** – May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug. 15 at Living Water Com. Church in Sheldon, 5:30-6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Attend the meal and a bag of groceries are available per household.

May 5, 2024

Morning Worship – Pastor Brian Dunn

9:30 AM

Opening Service

Call to Worship – Psalm 98:1-4; 8-9

Opening Prayer

*Opening Hymn: **“Blessed Be Your Name”**

*God’s Greeting/Mutual Greeting

*Song of Praise: **“Only a Holy God”**

Service of Reconciliation

Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon – Psalm 103:6-14

God’s Will for Life - Responsive

Children’s Message

Service of the Word

Special Music: “Jesus, Savior, Lord I Adore You” Choir

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading: **John 17:20-26**

Sermon Title: **“Jesus Prays for His Church”**

Prayer for Application

Special Music: “Mighty to Save” Choir

Service of Dedication

Congregational Prayer

Offering

*Song of Dedication: **“Praise the Lord, Sing Hallelujah” v. 1-2**

*Benediction

*Doxology: **“Praise the Lord, Sing Hallelujah” v. 3**

**Please stand, if able.*

May 5, 2024

Evening Worship – Pastor Brian Dunn

5:00 PM

We Gather to Worship

Call to Worship – Psalm 93

Silent Prayer

*Opening Hymn: **“Let All Things Now Living”**

*God’s Greeting

Responsive Affirmation of Faith: **Apostle’s Creed**

*Song of Praise: **“To God Be the Glory”**

Pastoral Prayer

We Hear God’s Word

Hymn of Preparation: **“Dwell in Me O Blessed Spirit”**

Scripture Passage: **Genesis 39:1-23**

Sermon Title: **“Joseph and Potiphar”**

Prayer of Application

We Respond in Faith

*Song of Dedication: **“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”**

*Benediction/Blessing

*Doxology: **“Glory Be to the Father”**

**Please stand, if able.*