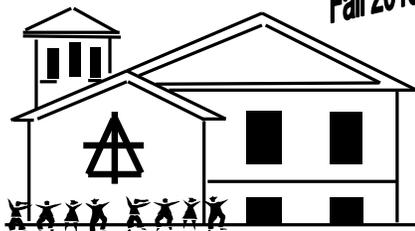


Fall 2018/Winter 2019



# Dispatch CRC Newsletter

## Just a Thought

# DISPATCH

In my “State of the Church Address” during the past years, I indicated that the Dispatch Christian Reformed Church is a healthy church that is free of any major conflict. This is a church that values God-centered worship and biblical preaching, opportunities for spiritual growth and education, fellowship and care for one another, and opportunities to be involved in the lives of those in our community through our own ministries and in our partnership with other churches.

I still believe that these things are true. We still value those things. Although the attendance at our Sunday evening worship service has dropped, morning attendance remains stable and at times even slightly increased. Our Sunday School classes, children’s Bible class, youth groups, and women’s Bible studies are meaningful and successful.

We continue to take advantage of the opportunities to partner with other churches in various ministries and events. During this past summer, we have come together in a unified and powerful way to reach out beyond ourselves in order to

help a new and needy family in our church.

On the other hand, it appears that some unresolved tensions from the past have resurfaced during this past year. There is an expressed dissatisfaction with the preaching and style of worship. There have also been demands for change.

Some of this tension, dissatisfaction, and demands for change have resulted in broken trust, damaged relationships, and division in the church because

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!

of the way it was expressed and communicated. It has also created an attitude of “us vs. them.”

Even so, the elders and pastor have discussed these concerns and requests for change. However, in order for any change to occur, it must be the right kind of change, motivated by the right reasons, proposed in the right manner, and implemented at the right time. Some of these criteria were not met.

And so, I call on each member of the Dispatch CRC to be fervent in prayer. Pray for change that is appropriate and

necessary for the good of God's people and the growth of his church. Pray for your pastor as he prepares his sermons. Pray that God may give him the words to speak. Pray that if God gives him the words to speak that they may be received as such.

Pray for the elders of this church. Pray that they may guide the spiritual development and growth of all members. Pray that they may lead with wisdom and by example. Pray that they may have the discernment to make hard decisions.

Pray for all members of council. Pray that they may work together in harmony and unity so that they can lead this church forward in a united mission. Pray that they will seek God's will in all things. Pray that they will lead with wisdom and courage.

Second, I call on each member of the Dispatch CRC to do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Don't insist on change as a matter of personal preference. Seek what is best for the Body.

Third, I call on each member of the Dispatch CRC to trust and respect your leaders. Honor those who have the authority to make change. Submit to the governing authorities of the church. Be willing to take "No" for an answer. Be patient and let your leaders do their work. Accept the wisdom and

experience of the pastor and office-bearers of this church to lead this church into the future.

Finally, let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Encourage one another. Build each other up. Be the church you want us to be. And let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing. Be an active participant. Engage yourself in worship. Make worship a priority in your homes and families. Set an example for younger generations.

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore. That was the first message I proclaimed in this church. And its truth still applies to us today.

~Pastor Steve

## Celebrating Christmas at Dispatch



*Danny, Jana, and Adelyn Pfannenstiel*



*Adrienne and Levi Allison*



*The Marion & Melanie Schlatter Family*



*The Christmas Program Cast*



## Tuesday's Children's Bible Class



This year is our second year of meeting, and we have added a class this year.

Kareena offered to teach a class for younger children. So she teaches a class for Kindergarten and first grade. I now have second through fifth. There are seven children attending Kareena's class and nine children in my class. We start each week all together. We open each week with prayer either led by one of the children or myself. Then we do some singing. We also have been learning the books of the Bible. We learn the names of each book and then what its theme is. Kareena has been using material from One Room Classroom, which includes Bible stories that she shares with the children. They do many activities that go with the story they are learning. About once a month they have a memory verse.

I use the material from the book Teach Me Your Way. This is material that comes before learning the catechism. We have learned how we are able to know God, Who God is, that God created all things and made us special. We have learned about angels, how sin came into the world, and the promised Savior. We are also learning about Jesus' work on earth. Each lesson has a memory verse and some questions and answers to memorize.

We have also been learning the books of the Old and New

Testament, as well as Psalm 1. We have memory verse charts on the wall in the basement. Take a moment to look at all the verse our children have been learning.

Feel free to ask the children about these things. It helps them to understand the importance of what they are learning. Some parents have talked about discussions they have had with their children based on the questions in the material or a memory verse being learned. Grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends can have these discussions also.

Please pray for our children as they learn stories from the Bible, memorize Scripture, and hear about what our church believes. Pray that they will have a better understanding of who God is and how great His love for us is.

~Lynn Boersma

### **PROMISE KEEPER'S MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

The Promise Keepers men's bible study is completing Lesson 8 of "Experiencing the Heart of Jesus" by Max Lucado. This lesson is on the "Forgiveness of Jesus". The following is a summation of that study from Lucado's perspective.

2 Corinthians 5:21 states: "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God". Regarding Jesus being "made to be sin", Jesus was

always without sin actually, but He was made to be sin for us judicially. That is by His death on the cross, He paid the penalty for our sins and thereby cancelled the debt of sin against us. So, while Jesus never committed a sin personally, He was made to be sin for us substitutionally. He was the perfect and sinless sacrifice for our sins.

This is a tremendous truth - this is the mystery of the riches of divine grace - we are forgiven of our sins and we now have the righteousness of God!

Jesus' gift of forgiveness is costly. It cost Him everything. It cost Him to become bound by time. It cost Him to become bound in a human body. Jesus never knew the fruits of sin until He became sin for us and experienced our sinfulness.

Jesus touched and healed the peoples' bodies and more importantly He healed our sin-sick souls. When we were spiritually dead because of our sins and we were not free from the power of our sinful self, God made us alive with Christ and the blood of Jesus covered all of our transgressions.

God gives eternal choices and these choices have eternal consequences. Jesus' forgiveness is accomplished at Calvary. We must personally accept and embrace this gift in our lives. As demonstrated by the one thief on the cross next to Jesus, when he repented; no matter how many bad choices we have made in the past, they are redeemed

by one good choice - to follow Jesus!!

~Stephen Cordel

## My Recommended Reading

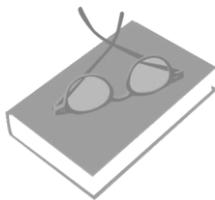
Nebraska

Senator Ben Sasse, has written a book entitled

“THEM” with

the subtitle, “Why We Hate Each Other – and How to Heal”. He states clearly that the book is not about politics or theology. However, he also indicates that he is a Christian and writes from a Christian perspective. His purpose in writing is to explore the impact of technology on our society and how it is likely to influence the future. His emphasis is on how the development of technology, has resulted in loneliness, lack of rootedness and a sense of community, seem to me to be significant and profound. Although this is a book that all ages will likely find worthwhile to read, parents with young children may find it especially useful as Senator Sasse writes quite extensively about the difficulties of dealing with access to social media.

Possibly some of you have already read this book and this is old news, and some may not



agree with Senator Sasse on some political issues. You may even think he is utopian in his thinking. He states in his book that he is a conservative Republican but clearly his intent in the book is to address all of us and not to expound any particular political position.

As you read the book you will understand the reason for the title, “THEM”. Hopefully someday, Senator Sasse will be able to write a book entitled “WE” and how Americans once again survived a critical time in their history.

~John Koops

## Reflections of a Young Adult Representative to Synod



*Young adult representatives, from left: Kristy Bootsma, Lydia Verstrate, Ben VanderWindt, Izhar Alvarez, Benjamin Boersma, Robyn Stegink, and Jenna Rodermond.*

*Photo by Karen Huttenga*

This past June, I had the privilege of attending the Christian Reformed Church Synod as a young adult

representative. Along with the delegates from each of the different geographical regions of the denomination, there were also advisers from the various church organizations, including Calvin Seminary, World Renew, Resonate Global Mission, and *The Banner*. I learned a lot from the experience, especially about how our denomination is governed. But I was also reminded that church unity takes work.

At the same time that the CRC held its synod, the Reformed Church of America also held its synod. Both groups met on the campus of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The CRC split off from the RCA in 1857, but recently, efforts have been made to mend relations. Both synods worshipped together, and even held several of their sessions together.

I appreciated getting to know people from both denominations and hearing their perspectives. However, the impression I got of the joint sessions felt a bit like being at a family reunion and trying to sit next to that person you haven't talked to in years.

The CRC has several levels of government. The most basic is the church council, which oversees the local church. Certain times each year, delegates from each church council, usually the pastor, an elder, and a deacon, attend meetings of churches in the

same geographical region. This meeting, known as classis, handles matters that involve churches in the region.

Synod, then, is the broadest assembly, consisting of delegates from each classis, as well as other representatives and advisors, such as young adults, members of different minority groups, and various denominational ministries. Delegates to synod have a wide range of jobs, such as overseeing denominational ministries, approving seminary graduates to serve as pastors, and handling disagreements that arise within the denomination.

Each of these assemblies votes on their delegates, but they are not necessarily answerable to the people who voted for them. They may come with certain issues from their own assembly, but they must also be willing to set aside their own agendas for the good of the local church, classis, or the entire denomination. As one pastor who attended put it, "Synod is a deliberative assembly, not a representative assembly."

In my case as a young adult representative, I came with more than just the interests of my church in mind. I also came as a pastor's son. I wanted to ensure that the churches were looking after the interests of fellow pastors and their families. But I also had to be willing to set aside my own goals and agendas, to listen to other people's perspectives and

ideas, and to weigh in on discussion when it was relevant to the young people of the CRC. I also had to be willing to speak up in committee meetings and on the floor of synod regarding these issues.

Most of Synod's work is not done in the full session. Rather, delegates and representatives are split into committees dedicated to a certain area of business. The committee I was assigned to dealt with approving seminary graduates to serve as pastors, hearing reports from the different Christian colleges and universities, and reviewing CRC policy on related matters.

Once the committees had taken care of everything they had been given, the entire synod met to review the actions. Young adult representatives could speak to the assembly, but it was usually limited to their committee's work or issues that were relevant to young people. This position was both fun and challenging. I appreciated being in a position where my voice could be heard; but at the same time, I felt a little awkward advising my elders. As the week went on, though, I grew more comfortable with my role, and I found that the delegates valued my input. Many of them thanked me for my willingness to speak up.

One of the more enjoyable parts of my time at synod was getting reacquainted with old friends. Several delegates went to seminary with my dad, so when

we took a break, I spent some time catching up. I also made some new acquaintances among my fellow committee members.

Each morning, we would join the RCA synod for a brief time of worship. The theme was unity. While it was cool to see both groups come together for an hour each morning, I felt like we displayed a better sense of unity when we worked together in the joint sessions. Everyone was split into groups of around ten, and we had to decide how to best meet a certain need in both denominations. The results, at least from what I could tell, appeared to accomplish these goals.

Throughout the week, I could see what unity is supposed to look like. We came together with one task: to do the work of the church. We looked at how that work should be carried out in each area of the denomination. We even began to figure out how to extend that work to other denominations and ministries.

But it took work. We came from all over North America, from different backgrounds and different cultures. We didn't agree on everything; in fact, a couple of the full sessions got a little heated. At the end of the week, though, we reached our decisions with little conflict, and I left with a new appreciation for how our denomination is governed.

~Benjamin Boersma

## Poetry Corner

### The Incarnation

Almighty God in a manger?  
The Ancient of Days newly  
born?  
Creator among us as Stranger?  
The Life in a now dying form?

The Water of Life now is  
thirsting!  
And hungering, He who is  
Bread!  
Wrapped in humanity's cursing  
So we can choose blessing  
instead.

~Pat Johnson James  
Submitted by Lynn Koops

### Senses of the Fall

In the fall  
there's lots to  
see,  
Colorful leaves falling from a  
tree,  
Plump orange pumpkins for  
pumpkin pie.  
And all the fluffy clouds in the  
sky.

During the fall there is  
Thanksgiving,  
Where you taste stuff that is  
filling,  
You can eat that fat old roasted  
turkey,  
You can eat that gravy that  
looks real murky.

You can feel lots of things in  
the fall,



Like that old brown flat  
football,  
You can feel a comfortable  
warm breeze,  
And the feathers from those big  
turkeys.

~Jonny Schlatter

## Recipes:

### Cheeseburger Soup

2 Carrots  
1 Small Onion  
2 Stalks Celery  
8 cups diced Potatoes  
3 cans Chicken Broth  
¼ cup Flour  
½ cup butter  
1 pound hamburger  
½ cup milk  
½ pound Velveeta Cheese  
¼ cup Sour Cream



Brown hamburger and set aside.

Peel and dice potatoes into  
small chunks and set aside.

Grate carrots, chop celery and  
onion. Melt ¼ cup butter in  
large kettle and sauté onions  
and celery until clear.

Add cooked hamburger,  
potatoes and carrots along with  
chicken broth. Simmer until  
potatoes are tender.

While this is cooking, melt  
remaining butter over low heat,  
add flour and mix well. When  
potatoes are done add flour

mixture to thicken the soup. Stir  
well, then add cubed cheese and  
milk. Stir occasionally until  
melted.

Add sour cream just before  
serving.

~submitted by Ginger DeBey

### Chocolate Turtle Cookies



These  
Chocolate  
Turtle Cookies are ultra  
decadent, soft, and delicious.  
Any chocolate lover will go  
crazy for this delicious cookie  
recipe!

Prep 15 min  
Cook 12 min  
Total 27 min  
Servings: 24 cookies

### Ingredients:

1 cup salted  
butter softened

½ cup sugar

½ cup brown sugar

2 large eggs

½ teaspoon vanilla  
extract

½ cup unsweetened  
cocoa powder

1 teaspoon baking soda  
¼ teaspoon salt  
2 cups all purpose flour  
1 cup milk chocolate chips  
1 cup chopped pecans  
14 baking caramels unwrapped  
1 tablespoon heavy cream

### **Instructions:**

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats.

Cream together butter, sugar, and brown sugar using a stand mixer or hand mixer.

Add in eggs and vanilla extract and beat until combined.

Beat in cocoa powder, baking soda, and salt.

Use a spoon or rubber spatula to stir in flour until combined. Stir in chocolate chips and pecans.

Scoop out about two tablespoons of the cookie dough and roll into a ball and place on prepared pans. Repeat with remaining dough until you have 24 cookies. Place in the freezer for 30 minutes.

Bake in the preheated oven for 12 minutes.

Meanwhile, place unwrapped caramels and heavy cream into a microwave safe bowl. Place in the microwave for 30 seconds. Stir, and microwave again for 30 seconds. Continue until caramel is completely melted and smooth.

Once the cookies are out of the oven drizzle with caramel and let cool completely on a wire rack.

### **Nutrition:**

Calories: 242kcal | Carbohydrates: 27g | Protein: 3g | Fat: 14g | Saturated Fat: 6g | Cholesterol: 36mg | Sodium: 164mg | Potassium: 82mg | Fiber: 1g | Sugar: 17g | Vitamin A: 5.7% | Vitamin C: 0.1% | Calcium: 3.2% | Iron: 5.8%

~submitted by Melanie Schlatter from the website [thestayathomechef.com](http://thestayathomechef.com)



**Artwork by Abigail Schlatter**

## **Church Life**

Congratulations to Danny and Jana Pfannenstiel on the birth of Marlee Jae on November 8, 2018. She was 7 lbs, 10 oz, and 20 in. long. She joins her big sister Adelyn. Her grandparents are George and Sherri Eakin.

Congratulations to Russell and Linda Groenendyk on the birth of a new grandson. Logan Luke was born on January 3, 2019 to Luke and Jeanetta Nieuwsma. He weighed 7 lbs and was 19 ¼ inches. He joins his older siblings Lydia, Leah, and Layton.

Congratulations to Jared and Andrea Schurr on the birth of Jade Nicole, born on January 18, 2019. She was 8 lbs and 10 ½ oz, and 20 ¼ in. long. She joins her big brothers, Bentley and Brody. She is the granddaughter of Don and Jan Koops.

Mathew and Jihan Pfannenstiel have a new address: 1618 Dryden Ln., Kailua, Hawaii 96734. Mathew is serving his country in the Marine Corps.

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The opinions expressed in *The Dispatch* do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editor and/or staff of the newsletter.

You are welcome to submit material for possible publication in the Dispatch CRC newsletter. Just e-mail any articles or stories to Jan Tanis or U.S. mail to the following address:

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If you receive this newsletter and live far away, we would love to hear from you. Jot us a note telling us what's happening with your family!

### For More Information

This newsletter is a publication of Dispatch CRC. If you would like more information about Dispatch Christian Reformed Church please call:

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