



# **Platte Christian Reformed Church**

*June 2018*

## **“Should We Be A Church That Reaches In, or Reaches Out?”**

Dear Platte CRC Family,

Recently, I preached a message from Acts on God’s people being both an exclusive community and an inclusive community. Sinners alienated from God need nothing less than Christ to become his children (exclusive), but to become his children, no tests or burdens or report cards or ethnicity – nothing more than Christ – is needed (inclusive). Are God’s people inclusive or exclusive? Yes.

In a similar way, if someone asked whether our church should be an ‘outreach church’ or a ‘fellowship church,’ or, in other words, whether our church should reach in or reach out, I’d answer, “yes.” This too is a false choice. The church that does not reach in will be incapable of truly reaching out, while the church that doesn’t reach out probably has a lack of life within that must be addressed.

It can seem as though you must choose between outreach or fellowship, but in actuality, they ought to feed one another. One thing is particularly key: fellowship needs to be the fellowship pictured in Acts and commanded both in the “one another” texts of the New Testament (that we are going through in evening communion worship times) as well as in Christ’s exhortations to do things for “the least of these” (contrary to popular understanding, a closer look at what Jesus means with ‘the least of these,’ is not society’s poor and downtrodden, but his disciples -- fellow Christians -- who are in need). Biblical fellowship is not merely small talk over a cup of coffee. That’s fine, but that is available at any coffee shop. There’s nothing uniquely Christian about it. True fellowship is intentional relationship building that allows for Christians to care for one another, feed on Scripture together, pray together and share burdens with one another. This is not like membership at Sam’s Club.

Investing in true Christian fellowship then fuels outreach in two ways. First of all, it should energize outreach. The accountability, encouragement, hospitality and love I receive from Christian family fills my tank to go out to others. When you are known and loved, you are secure to venture out. Second, true biblical fellowship creates what Mark Dever of 9Marks would call a “compelling community.” It creates something you want to bring people into, and they want to come into. Investing in one another, within the church family, leads to the sort of group that those ‘outside’ hopefully find unique and attractive: not a club, but a family. In our disconnected culture, a family that invests in one another and loves one another is strange. It is what people crave. They want to love and be loved; know and be known.

When the Christian community has a unique bond fostered through intentional fellowship, the great thing is that anyone can be welcomed into that community. No ethnicity, family name, criminal background, occupation, income level, or personality is off limits.

Should we reach in or reach out? Yes, we should.

Sincerely,

Pastor Drew

## FAMILY PRAYER NOTES

### GENERAL PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

- ⇒ Pray that our church would be tied together by the true fellowship commanded and pictured in Scripture, and that that fellowship would lead to true outreach to our community.
- ⇒ As crops grow, be praying for the needed rain and sunshine to generate good growth!
- ⇒ This month, our church Synod will be meeting in Grand Rapids. Pray for the meetings and especially for Deacon Dave Kuipers who will be serving as a delegate.
- ⇒ Be in prayer for the positions that are needed to be filled at Dakota Christian School.
- ⇒ Give thanks along with First Reformed Church for the arrival of Pastor Gary Mulder. Pray for a smooth move for his family and for fruitful ministry at First Reformed.
- ⇒ Give thanks for the chance we have to reconnect with Jason and Lisa, who work in Central Asia and will be sharing with us this month. Ask God to bless their ministry.
- ⇒ Please pray for God's guidance as Classis Iakota's Church Plant Committee continues conversations with those who desire to provide leadership for the launch of a new church in west Sioux Falls.

### Nursing Home Residents, Shut-ins and their Caretakers:

- ⇒ Tony & Rozella Baan Hofman, Ted Bultsma, Kevin Burma, Gertie DeJong, Clair & Pearl Dyk, Marie Kok, Clarence Hunsucker, JoAnn Kuipers, Juna Meyerink, Helen Pheifer, Ruth Pranger, Cheryl Reed, Don & Evelyn Severson, Harriet Sprik, Leona Van Dusseldorp, and Muriel Van Vuren, Betty Van Zee

### Those Mourning the Loss of:

- ⇒ Esther Hoekman, Cornie & Eleanor Lieuwen, Jennie Bultsma, Darrell Kuipers, Janet DeJong, and Harriett Meyerink.

### Missionaries:

- ⇒ Ben & Amy Meyer (CRWM– Mexico)
- ⇒ Victor & Lori Selemani (YWAM– Africa)
- ⇒ LaVeryl & Max Voss (Wycliffe– Papua New Guinea)
- ⇒ Calvin & Jessica Wunderink (TeachBeyond-Czech Republic )

### Monthly Birthdays and Anniversaries

*(to see church activities, please refer to our weekly bulletin, or to the online calendar at [plattecrc.org](http://plattecrc.org) for the most up-to-date information)*

#### June Birthdays:

- 1: Calvin Wunderink (Missionary)
- 3: Virginia Kuipers
- 4: Tami Boltjes
- 5: Joshua Selemani (Missionary)
- 5: Ramona Dykstra
- 6: Chris Dykshorn
- 8: Mary Kraayenbrink
- 9: Laney Buitenbos
- 10: Vonnie Kuipers
- 11: Carlyle Pheifer
- 12: Carol Bultsma
- 13: Bob Middendorp
- 14: Ted Bultsma
- 15: Mike Kuipers
- 19: Don Severson
- 22: Alyssa Middendorp
- 23: Ivan Van Dusseldorp
- 23: Zach Meyer (Missionary)
- 25: Danica Middendorp
- 25: Darrel Kraayenbrink

25: Lloyd Kuipers

26: Karla Overweg

27: Jeanette Pheifer

28: John Meyer (Missionary)

29: Luke Kaemingk

#### June Anniversaries:

1: Alfred & Alice Van Zee

3: Clair & Pearl Dyk

7: Cleo & Kathy Bultsma

12: Ivan & Lois Van Dusseldorp

12: Jerome & Yvonne Bentz

12: Lloyd & Virginia Kuipers

15: Ted & Carol Bultsma

18: Leanna & Mitch Johnson

24: Doug & Jolinda Kaemingk

25: Devan & Matt Haack

25: Ian & Val Kuipers

26: Sam & Henrietta Sybesma

29: Alan & Tonya Weg

29: Clarence & Hennie Van Essen

*Please let the church office know if there are any birthdays or anniversaries that we've missed! Call 337-3572, or email: [plattecrc@gmail.com](mailto:plattecrc@gmail.com)*