



Platte
Christian Reformed Church
March 2018

“Spiritual Children and Grandchildren”

Dear Platte CRC Family,

One of the joys for me as a pastor is getting to hear your joy in kids and grandkids. If I visit a home, I love to look at the pictures and see how a relationship between two people somehow turned into that big crowd of people. Then, the joy only increases when the holidays come around and I see a couple that usually sits on their own in a bench suddenly in the middle of a whole bench (or two or three) full of family. It’s fun for me to get to know them and see the interesting ways in which they are similar to and different from you as their parents.

Several weeks ago, we looked together at Titus 2 and the way that a church grows up as the flock together. The concept was that older men teach older women and younger men, and older women teach younger men. This happens, most importantly, in the context of your home. God gives the gift of kids and grandkids; however, the gift is for a purpose: “bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord” (Eph 6:4b). Parenting and discipleship are not two separate things; parenting is discipleship. You are given children to attempt to form them into disciples of Jesus Christ. When Paul is talking with Timothy, he exhorts him to remember the people who brought him up in the faith (in other words, remember your mom and your grandma).

What I said above is mostly understood; however, what is less understood is how that call from Titus 2 can extend beyond your home. What is less understood is that perhaps God can provide for you children that are not biological or adopted, but spiritual. This is how it works: Jane has a heart for Joy, a younger girl in the church, and so she meets with her regularly to talk about life and Scripture and what it means to live as a Christian. Fast forward a few

years, and Joy then wants to give the same gift to Grace, a girl that’s not as far along the Christian path as she is. Jane now has a spiritual daughter in the faith and a spiritual granddaughter – and perhaps great grand-daughters to come! Jack opens up some time for Bill, who then turns around and meets with Tommy. Father, son, grandson.

How do you compare the time, money and effort you put into biological kids and spiritual kids? I personally give thanks that I have a dad who is both a biological and spiritual father; however, I also give thanks for someone I could just as well call ‘dad’ in churches in both Minnesota and California. Are you on the lookout for the gift of spiritual children and grandchildren? What about some ‘spiritual parents?’ I pray that as a true church family we might be bringing new people into the family and raising them up to know Jesus, be like Jesus, and then share Jesus with the next generations.

In Christ,

Pastor Drew



FAMILY PRAYER NOTES – FEBRUARY 2018

GENERAL PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

- ⇒ Pray for the Sunday School and Catechism teachers in their mission to help the next generation know Jesus.
- ⇒ Pray that Jesus might be known among people in our missionaries' countries: Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, Czech Republic, and Mexico.
- ⇒ Pray for the women's retreat that will be taking place later this month.
- ⇒ Ask for God to bless the farmers who will be calving and planting in the next few months.
- ⇒ Lift up to God the marriages of our church and ask that they might be kept strong and united.
- ⇒ Pray that God would lift up spiritual parent, child and grandchild relationships among our church family.
- ⇒ Ask God to lead you to people who could be new pieces in what he is building at Platte CRC.

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, Muriel Van Vuren, Betty Van Zee

Those Mourning the Loss of:

- Esther Hoekman, Cornie & Eleanor Lieuwen, Jennie Bultsma, Darrell Kuipers, Janet DeJong, Ann Vander Pol, Viola Vander Tuin, 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 for the most up-to-date information)

March Birthdays:

- 4: Pastor Drew Hoekema
- 5: Kim Lieuwen
- 6: Su Sybesma
- 7: Char Severson
- 7: Jackson DeGroot
- 8: Ezekiel Kuipers
- 12: Harlan Van Genderen
- 15: Taryn Hoeksema
- 18: Kevin Dyk
- 18: Rozella Baan Hofman
- 20: Braden Voss (Missionary)
- 26: Anessa Voss (Missionary)
- 28: Esther Hoekman[†]

March Anniversaries:

- 1: Mike & Kris Kuipers
- 5: Clarence & Elaine Boltjes
- 6: Harlan & Judy Van Genderen
- 12: John & Gracia Kuipers
- 18: Lyle & Everine Schipper
- 28: Elroy & Carol Kaemingk

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