



**Platte  
Christian Reformed Church**

*January 2020*

**“Pick One Step”**

As the calendar turns to a new year, fresh starts are often on peoples’ minds. Though many New Year’s Resolutions are designed to fail – almost the equivalent of an apple stating ‘I’m going to be an orange instead this year!’ – it remains true that the turning of the calendar does provide an appropriate time to examine where you are and determine where God would like you to be.

So let’s think this through a bit. The mission of our church is to know Christ, to be like Christ and to share Christ. That isn’t the mission of the pastor. That isn’t the mission of the council. That is *your* mission! Each member of this church who has covenanted to share in its life has basically stated, ‘My life will be about what this church is about!’ So in 2020, pick one of those three aspects of our church mission. All three aspects are important, but just pick one for your focus this year, and then pick one step within it.

Maybe you simply want to know Christ better. Since prayer is how we speak to Jesus, one could be *In January 2021, I will have a daily time of ‘x’ minutes devoted to prayer.* Since the Bible is how He speaks to us, it could be *In January 2021, I will have read ‘x’ book of the Bible through two or three times along with a commentary.* People often set out in the New Year with the goal of reading through the whole Bible – which is of course good – but it’s a very lofty goal - perhaps it’d be better to take a smaller bite. Or you could involve others: *In January 2021, I will have started a Bible Study with ‘x’ people studying ‘x’ book of the Bible.* Or here’s one more: *by January 2021, I will be looking back over my sermon notes each week for reflection and prayer.*

Maybe you want to focus on being more like Christ this year. *In January 2021, I will have spent a month praying for each of the fruits of the Spirit in my life.* A life of Christ is a life of service, so your goal may be *in January 2021, I will have gone on one mission trip to serve people in need.*

If you are discouraged by a sin or a habit in your life, *by January 2021, I will be doing ‘x’ less, or not at all* – and then you figure out the small monthly, weekly or daily steps to get there. For those under 45, I might suggest something like, *in January 2021, I will be regularly meeting with a Christian I respect who is older than me to help me walk in faith.*

Or maybe you want to focus on sharing Christ in this year. Related to the last goal above, those over 45 could say *in January 2021, I will be regularly meeting with a Christian I love who is younger than me to build them up in Christ.* If you are physically limited, your goal might be to pick a country or missionary: *in January 2021, I will have prayed once-per-week for the spread of the gospel in that place.* Sharing Christ begins with knowing someone, so maybe pick a neighbor: *by January 2021, I will know that particular neighbor well.* If you feel like you don’t know much about evangelism: *in January 2021, I will have read a book about evangelism.*

Hopefully this gets you thinking about the next small step you can take in 2020 to grow in our mission to know, imitate and share Jesus Christ. I will be praying for all of you who boldly choose one new step to take!

In Christ,

Pastor Drew

## FAMILY PRAYER NOTES

### GENERAL PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

- ◆ Pray that in 2020, Platte CRC would better know Christ as our Lord and Savior.
- ◆ Pray that in 2020, Platte CRC would better imitate Christ with our words and actions.
- ◆ Pray that in 2020, Platte CRC would better share Christ here and throughout the world.
- ◆ Lift up our students as they return for another semester of classes – ask God to provide them diligence to work and joy and wisdom from their work.
- ◆ Pray for weather this year that would be helpful for farms and businesses to do their work well.
- ◆ Ask the Lord to work in lives through the Men's Retreat at New Hope Camp this month.
- ◆ With Sanctity of Life Sunday this month, recommit to praying that our culture would have a new desire to protect unborn lives, that God would raise up courageous lawmakers, and that women would receive help who find themselves in difficult situations.

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

- ◆ Tony & Rozella Baan Hofman, Carol Bultsma, Kevin Burma, Gertie DeJong, Clair & Pearl Dyk, Marie Kok, Clarence Hunsucker, Sarah Kraayenbrink, JoAnn Kuipers, Juna Meyerink, Ruth Pranger, Cheryl Reed, Evelyn Severson, Leona Van Dusseldorp, Muriel Van Vuren, and Betty Van Zee

### Those Mourning the Loss of:

- ◆ Ted Bultsma, Beckham Sternberg, Ken Kuipers, Chris Dykshorn, Dave Kuipers, Pegge Pranger, Harriet Sprik, and Allis Hansum.

*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)*

### 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)*

### January Birthdays:

- 5: Sonya Hansum
- 6: Vic Bultsma
- 7: Evelyn Severson
- 7: Kristi Pheifer
- 7: Wendell Kuipers
- 8: Caleb Veurink
- 9: Tony Hansum
- 15: Pastor Ben Meyer  
(Missionary)
- 18: Curt Pheifer
- 19: Ken Lieuwen
- 19: Kris Sybesma
- 20: Amy Van Zee
- 23: Jevin Meyerink
- 28: Elroy Kaemingk
- 28: Grace Meyer (Missionary)
- 30: Clarence Boltjes

### January Anniversaries:

- 1: Pastor Drew & Katie Hoekema