

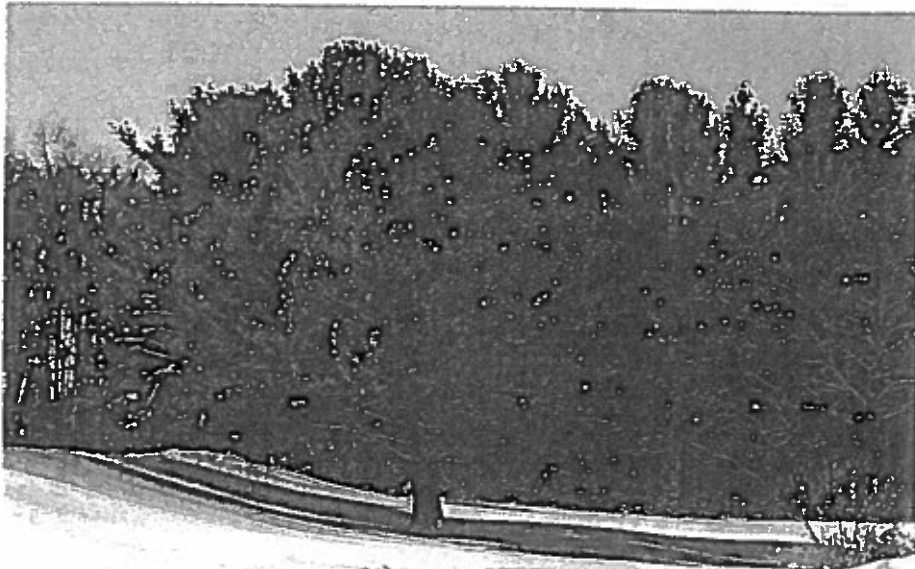
# The Overisel Overview

A Monthly Publication of the Overisel Reformed Church

January 2019

Volume 42

Number 1



The LORD  
makes firm  
the steps  
of the one  
who delights  
in him.

PSALM 37:23; NIV

# January 2019

Date	Morning Service	Evening Services
<p><b>January 6</b></p>	<p>9:30 Rev. Randy Raak Installation of New Elders and Deacons Communion</p> <p>Offering: General Fund/ Words of Hope</p>	<p>5:00 Rev. Randy Raak Sanctuary</p> <p>5:00 Revolution Service</p> <p>Family Life Center</p>
<p><b>January 13</b></p>	<p>9:30 Rev. Randy Raak</p> <p>Offering: General Fund/</p>	<p>5:00 Rev. Randy Raak Sanctuary</p> <p>5:00 Revolution Service</p> <p>Family Life Center</p>
<p><b>January 20</b></p>	<p>9:30 Rev. Randy Raak</p> <p>Offering: General Fund/ Lakeshore Pregnancy Center</p>	<p>5:00 Rev. Bill Vanderwerp Sanctuary</p> <p>5:00 Revolution Service</p> <p>Family Life Center</p>
<p><b>January 27</b></p>	<p>9:30 Rev. Randy Raak</p> <p>Offering: General Fund/</p>	<p>5:00 Rev. Randy Raak Sanctuary</p> <p>5:00 Revolution Service</p> <p>Family Life Center</p>

Do something wonderful; people may imitate it.

Albert Schweitzer

## **Dates to Remember**

**Tuesday, January 1**  
**New Year's Day**

**Wednesday, January 2**  
**No Wednesdays@ORC**  
**Christmas Break**

**Sunday, January 6**  
9:30 Morning Worship  
10:50 Sunday School, Small Groups  
4:30 – Kids' Mania at The Hall  
5:00 Evening Worship-Sanctuary  
5:00 Revolution Service in FLC

**Monday, January 7**  
Men's Morning Bible Study  
8:30 at the Hall

Moms' Bible Study  
9:15

Ladies Bible Study  
7:00 in the Historical Room

Consistory Meeting

**Tuesday, January 8**  
Ladies' Bible Study  
9:30 in Room 1

Men's Evening Bible Study  
7:00 in the Fireside Room (Choir room)

**Wednesday, January 9**  
Sandyview Moms in Prayer

Wednesdays at ORC  
Supper-5:30-6:20 – Walking Tacos  
Classes-6:30-8:00  
Praise Team Practice-8:00

**Thursday, January 10**  
MIP College and Career  
9:30 in Lounge

**Friday thru Sunday, January 11, 12, & 13**  
Jars of Clay "Winter Blast"

**Saturday, January 12**  
GEMS Father-Daughter Bowling

**Sunday, January 13**  
9:30 Morning Worship  
10:50 Sunday School, Small Groups  
5:00 Evening Worship-Sanctuary  
5:00 Revolution Service in FLC

**Monday, January 14**  
Men's Morning Bible Study  
8:30 AM at the Hall

Senior Breakfast  
Trestle Stop at 8:15

Quilting – 9:30-noon

**Wednesday, January 16**  
Released Time-10-12

Wednesdays at ORC  
Supper-5:30-6:20-Vitales pizza  
Classes-6:30-8:00  
Praise Team Practice-8:00

**Thursday, January 17**  
MIP College and Career  
9:30 in Lounge

**Sunday, January 20**  
9:30 Morning Worship  
10:50 Sunday School, Small Groups  
5:00 Evening Worship-Sanctuary  
5:00 Revolution Service in FLC

**Monday, January 21**  
Mom's Bible Study  
9:15

**Tuesday, January 22**  
Men's Evening Bible Study  
7:00 in the Fireside Room (Choir room)

**Wednesday, January 23**  
Sandyview MIP -9:15

Wednesdays at ORC  
Supper-5:30-6:20-Breakfast for supper  
Classes-6:30-8:00

Praise Team Practice-8:00

**Thursday, January 24**  
MIP College and Career  
9:30 in Lounge

**Friday, January 25**  
Griffins Hockey Game  
7:00

**Sunday, January 27**  
9:30 Morning Worship  
10:50 Sunday School, Discovery Circles  
5:00 Evening Worship-Sanctuary  
5:00 Revolution Service in FLC

**Wednesday, January 30**  
Wednesdays at ORC  
Supper-5:30-6:20-Soup  
Classes-6:30-800  
Praise Team Practice-8:00

**Thursday, January 31**  
MIP College and Career  
9:30 in Lounge

### 2019 Consistory

Rev. Randy Raak, Pastor Ty Hogue, Pastor Ken Kleinheksel

#### Elders –

Steve Schrottenboer  
Keith Lubbers  
Glenn Kleinheksel  
Ken Laarman  
Bruce Peters  
Bob Reimink  
Loren Brouwer  
Jeff Snay  
Dave Koopman

#### Deacons

Craig Theodore  
Dan Velderman  
Jeff Laarman  
Matt Essink  
Lee Lubbers  
Ross Nagelkirk  
Ryan Goodman  
Nate Genzink  
Dean Jipping



### ORC Weather Cancellation Policy

The responsibility for cancelling church activities will rest with a Weather Committee. Decisions regarding cancelling church activities will generally be made no less than 2 ½ hours before the activity begins—7:00 am for morning services, 2:30 pm for evening services and by 2:00 for Wednesday evening. Weather cancellation notices will be sent via email and will be posted on the ORC website, the ORC Facebook page and local TV and radio stations.

In the event that Hamilton Community Schools are closed for afternoon classes due to severe weather, all church activities will be assumed to be cancelled unless the affected church members are notified otherwise.

A tornado watch or warning in effect within one hour of the beginning of a church activity, that activity will be cancelled. Other severe weather advisories will be considered on a case by case basis.

# Puzzle!

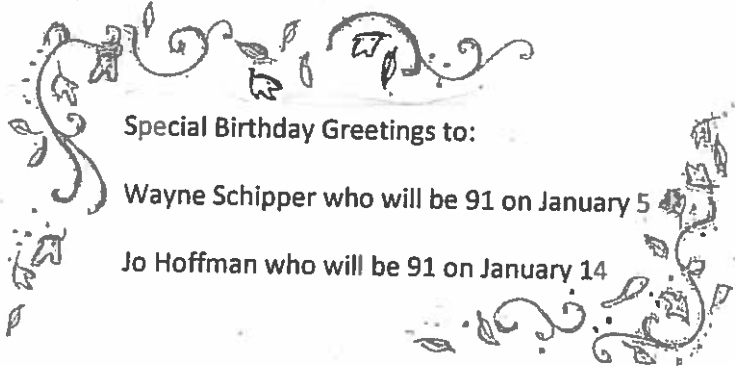
The 10 words below are spelled correctly but are missing the letter O. Use them to complete the Bible verse below, where you'll find all the missing O's.

S, NE, JHN, ANTHER, GD,  
LVED, UGHT, T, ALS, LVE

Dear friends, since \_\_\_O\_\_\_ \_\_\_O\_\_\_  
\_\_\_O\_\_\_ \_\_\_O\_\_\_ US, we \_\_\_O\_\_\_ \_\_\_O\_\_\_  
O\_\_\_ \_\_\_O\_\_\_ \_\_\_O\_\_\_  
O\_\_\_ \_\_\_O\_\_\_  
1 \_\_\_O\_\_\_ \_\_\_O\_\_\_ 4:11, NIV



Congratulations to Goldie Sternberg on the birth of her 26<sup>th</sup> great grandchild. Charlie Theodore Puplis was born on November 26, 2018. He is the son of Joe and Jen Puplis, grandson of Dave and Lou Sternberg, and the great-grandson of Goldie. Congratulations!



Special Birthday Greetings to:

Wayne Schipper who will be 91 on January 5

Jo Hoffman who will be 91 on January 14

### New Members

We welcome Don and Lyn Becksford to our church family. They were received into membership at the last Consistory meeting. Don is a "sort of retired" electrician and Lyn still works as an industrial seamstress. They love to camp and travel. Lyn likes all kinds of crafts and quilting. They have grown children.



### Book Discussion Group

The book discussion group will meet on Tuesday, January 22 at 7:00 in room 1. The book for discussion is "My name is Mahtob". It is one of the library's book kits for book clubs. If you would like to borrow a copy to read, see Glenda Peters. There may be some extra copies available. Read the book and join in the discussion. Mahtob is the daughter of an America woman and her Arab husband. The father takes the child to his family and refuses to let the mother have her. This is the daughter's take on the true story. Anyone is welcome to join us.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

5:30 – 6:20

EVERY WEEK WE HAVE WEDNESDAYS @ ORC

### Menu for Wednesday night suppers

January 2 – No Wed.@ORC - Christmas Break

January 9 – Walking tacos

January 16 – Vitale's Pizza

January 23 – Breakfast for supper

January 30 – Soup

Items and articles for the February issue of the Overview are due on Sunday, January 20. Please place them in the wooden box marked Overview Articles located on the wall in the hall outside the church office or email them to [marciaimmink@yahoo.com](mailto:marciaimmink@yahoo.com). Please put your name on anything you submit. Thank you.

### Answers to the Kids' Page:

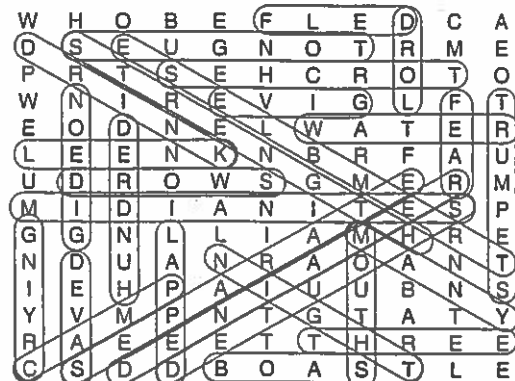
F l e l e w n; New Life

### Answers to the Puzzle:

Dear Friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. | John 4:11, NIV

### Answers to the Games:

Secret phrase: "... who became powerful in battle." Hebrews 11:34



## Obituary

### Connie Schipper

Constance "Connie" (Van Zylén) Ryskamp-Schipper, age 87, of Holland died Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at The Inn at Freedom Village in Holland and was welcomed by her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Connie was born July 9, 1931, in Holland, Michigan to Charles and Emma (Post) Van Zylén. Connie graduated from Holland High School in 1949. In 1953, she received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Hope College. She furthered her education by earning her master's degree in Reading from West Chester University and her doctorate in education (EdU) from the University of Pennsylvania. She spent her career as a reading specialist, a reading programs coordinator and an elementary school principal. Connie's hobbies included crafts, sewing, knitting, reading, golf, and playing cards and board games. Connie used her considerable energy, creativity, leadership abilities, and concern for others as she participated in and led community and church groups. A woman of deep faith, she was a long time member of the United Presbyterian Church of Manoa in Havertown, Pennsylvania, where she served as deacon and elder, in addition to other positions. She also played pivotal roles in establishing the Keep preschool program and Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group at her church. Active in her community, Connie served as president of the Women's Club of Newtown Square and helped establish the Newtown Public Library. A gregarious person, Connie enjoyed spending time with friends and family. She especially relished summers at the beach in Ocean City, New Jersey, and after retirement wintered in North Fort Myers, Florida. She and her husband, Jack, traveled extensively for pleasure and to spend time with their 10 grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her first husband John (Jack) Howard Ryskamp, her son, Dr. Richard Post Ryskamp, her brother Charles Van Zylén and her sister Maxine Van Zylén Battjes. In she married Wayne Schipper of Holland, Michigan and moved to Freedom Village in Holland.

Connie will be remembered for her warm, welcoming personality, ready smile, and boundless energy. She will be greatly missed by her husband, Wayne, daughters Cynthia (Michael) Mehallow, Carol (Glenn) Anderson, and Nancy (Michael) Maratea, her daughter in law Annemarieke (Van Gorp) Ryskamp, as well as her grandchildren Samuel Ryskamp, Thomas Ryskamp, Michael Mehallow, Matthew Mehallow, Michelle Mehallow, Eric Anderson, Evan Anderson, Marisa Maratea, Jenna Maratea, and Justin Maratea.

A celebration of Connie's life and faith will be held at 11:00 AM Monday, December 3, 2018 at Overisel Reformed Church, 4706 142<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, in Holland. Reverend Kenneth Kleinheksel will be officiating. Burial will be in Restlawn Memorial Gardens.

Visitation will be from 6-8:00 PM Sunday, December 2, 2018 at Dykstra Funeral Home- Mulder Chapel, 188 West 32<sup>nd</sup> Street in Holland and from 10:00-10:40 AM at the church prior to the service. Memorial contributions may be given to the Michael Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

# As Unto Me

*Others may not notice your efforts or give you recognition for something you've done. The credit may even go to someone else.---Do it anyway, as unto Me, for I am pleased by your service and will honor your obedience.*

*There may be times when a job you have done will be rejected. Something you have prepared may be delayed or canceled.---Do it anyway, as unto Me, for I see all things and will bless the work of your hands.*

*You may do your very best but have your labors fail. You may sacrifice time and money to help someone and receive no words of appreciation.---Do it anyway, as unto Me, for I am your reward and will repay you.*

*There may be times when you go out of your way to include others and later have them ignore you. You may be loyal on your job and still have someone promoted ahead of you.---Do it anyway, as unto Me, for I will not fail you or make you be ashamed.*

*You may forgive others only to have them hurt you again. You may reach out to bless others only to have them take advantage of your kindness.---Do it anyway, as unto Me, for I know your heart and will comfort you.*

*You may speak the truth but be considered wrong by others. You may do something with good intentions and be completely misunderstood.---Do it anyway, as unto Me, for I understand and will not disappoint you.*

*There may be times when keeping your word means giving up something you would like to do. There may be times when a commitment will mean sacrificing a personal pleasure.---Do it anyway, as unto Me, for I am your friend and will bless you with My presence.*

January 2019

## A Daily Prayer for the New Year

Psalm 90:12 – So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

There has been a hymn running through my mind as we approach the start of 2019.

The title is “Another Year is Dawning” and it’s one of the songs we only sing once or twice at the beginning of each year. But the words are so good that we should apply them to our life every day by just substituting the word “day” for the word “year”. So please allow me to change the words that were written by Frances Ridley Haverbal just a little bit to focus our thoughts of the new year into a daily prayer.

Another day is dawning, Dear Father let it be, in working or in waiting, another day with thee. Another day of progress, another day of praise, another day of proving Thy presence every day.

Another day of service, of witness for Thy love, another day of training for holier work above. Another day is dawning, Dear Father let it be, on earth or else in heaven, another day for Thee.

I am confident that if we approach each day in 2019 in this way, the year will be one that glorifies our Heavenly Father and gives witness to His love for us. Have a wonderful January and a Happy New Year and I’ll see you on the journey!

Pastor Ken



### Reading Resolutions

Every January many Christians resolve to read the entire Bible in one year. That’s a worthy goal, but God doesn’t require us to read a certain number of verses or chapters per day. Instead, he tells us to simply be in the Word—and thus be with him—so he can grow our faith, light our path and assure us of his love and forgiveness. God’s Word is a precious gift, but we need to “unwrap” it!

F. B. Meyer offers this helpful advice for a new year of discovering (and rediscovering!) Scripture: Read the Bible, not as a newspaper, but as a home letter. If a cluster of heavenly fruit hangs within reach, gather it. If a promise lies upon the page as a blank check, cash it. If a prayer is recorded, appropriate it and launch it as a feathered arrow from the bow of your desire. If an example of holiness gleams before you, ask God to do as much for you. If the truth is revealed . . . entreat that its brilliance may ever irradiate . . . in your life.”



# Making devotions fun for kids

Written by [Focus on the Family Canada](#)

Do you find it hard to teach your children the importance of faith? For many Christians, this is one of the most challenging parts of being a parent. It takes discipline and creativity to find ways to engage your children in faith – but it's not impossible! Here are some ideas to keep kids involved and enthusiastic about time with God:

- If you've never established a regular time of devotions for your family, be assured it's never too late! It can be hard to start, but take it slow, be flexible, keep at it and don't be too hard on your kids (or yourself).
- The younger your kids are, the briefer your devotions time will probably need to be. Young minds can only grasp so much about spiritual truths (not to mention the challenges of short attention spans!). Start with five minutes and add more time as your kids mature.
- If possible, stick to a regular devotions time. Kids work well with routines, so try to make your devotions happen at a certain time each day. Good times include: at the dinner table (before or after eating), before bedtime or at breakfast.
- Get your kids involved! They'll be more likely to pay attention, feel important and comprehend what they're reading or hearing. Having picture books or a children's Bible can also make devotions easier to follow for young kids.
- While you may favour a certain translation of the Bible, it can be helpful to incorporate an easier-to-read translation for your kids (such as the NIV, NIRV or *The Message*, which is a paraphrase).
- Devotions are a great time for kids to discuss, ask questions and explore hard-to-grasp concepts. Encourage your kids to open up about their thoughts and questions. If you don't know how to answer a question, tell your child that you'll

look for the answer. Follow up by doing your own research or by talking to your pastor.

- If there's a significant age gap between your children, you may need to hold one-on-one devotions to make sure each child is engaged at their own level. You can still meet once a week as a family to discuss what you've each been learning.
  - Try to "mix things up" every now and then. Adding variety can prevent boredom and provide kids a fresh perspective on God.
  - Many Christian bookstores sell devotionals for kids of all ages. Check out your options, and don't hesitate to involve your kids in the process.!
  - If you're in a split-custody situation, discuss with your ex how you can establish healthy spiritual habits in both households. If he or she does not share your beliefs, do your best to hold a devotions time when your children are in your care.
  - Make sure you're spending your own quiet time alone with God. Your kids will learn the importance of spiritual discipline if they see it exemplified in your own life.
  - Be careful not to force spirituality on your kids, especially as they grow into teens and young adults. The best way to make sure your kids are growing in Christ is to pray for them and ask the Lord to guide their spiritual maturity. Allow kids room to question, doubt and grow at their own pace. You can trust that "he who began a good work in [them] will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).
-

The Education Team would like help make it easier for you to do family devotions by providing some devotional books. We have put together a shelf in the Family Life Center with devotion books for kids and youth. Some of the books are brand new and others are used. In fact if you have a devotion book at home that you are no longer using, we would love to have you go ahead and add the to the collection. There is no check out system, so just take a book and use it for as long as you need it and then return it. Our prayer is that you use this resource to continue to engage your family in faith.

## Education Team



### The Ultimate Road Map

Tired of going in circles, I wanted to stop and ask for directions to the Kennedy Library in Boston. My husband, the driver, did not. Eventually I won out. A store clerk was happy to provide a map and point us on our way.

Many of us Christians act like my husband did that day, blithely going on our way, turning here, backtracking there, never really finding what we want in life, but sure that if we follow our nose we'll get there eventually.

The Bible is exactly what we need on our journey; a road map to guide us on our way, to help us around the inevitable wrong turns and errors—and, in the end, to show us the direct path to eternal life with God in heaven.

Sandy Hyland

## Hamilton Area Released Time Needs Your Help!

This year at Released Time we have been talking about how *we can all be one of God's heroes.*

We've heard stories about how a hero has **Courage** like Esther, **Love** like the friends that brought the paralyzed man to Jesus and in January we will talk about how as one of God's heroes we can show **faith & trust** like Paul and Silas.

At our first session in November, I asked the kids of Hamilton and Sandyview Released Time if they were heroes. Most of them said yes but many said no....some weren't sure. If you ask them now? They will tell you yes!!

So, if they can be a hero for God....**SO CAN YOU!** The kids are reminded each month how they can be one of God's heroes with our Superhero Pledge:

*Imagine superman music while you read this :) ...*

I am a hero of God  
I will Be Brave  
Protect Others  
Have Heart  
Pray  
Remember that I don't need a cape!  
Live by what is right  
Have Faith  
Be a Good Friend  
Always Say Kind Words  
Do My Best  
Help those in need  
Be Kind  
Follow Directions  
Be Strong  
and Respect Others  
But my Most Important Power is...  
LOVE  
Jesus is my Superhero, I am just his sidekick.

<u>March Released Time Schedule</u>
Hamilton Elementary March 8 (at Haven Reformed Church) Times are: 8:50-9:50 2nd grade, 9:50-10:50 1st grade, 10:50-11:50 4th grade, 1:00-2:00 3rd grade
Sandyview Elementary March 13 (at Overisel Reformed Church) Times are 10:00-11:00 1st & 2nd grade, 11:00-12:00 3rd & 4th grade



Would you be willing to join us at one of our March Released Time sessions?

We are asking for: Police Officers, Pastors, Firefighters, Military, Cancer Survivors, Teachers, Nurses, Doctors, Tow Truck Drivers, Sunday School Teachers, EMT's, Youth Leaders, Paramedics, Coast Guard, Missionaries....

You won't have to talk if you don't want to ;) But if there is a short story you would like to share you are welcome to do so! No need to stay for an entire hour. We mainly want to thank you for being one of God's heroes and pray for you! You can just stand there and smile!

Contact Holly Kroeze at [sandyview.rt@gmail.com](mailto:sandyview.rt@gmail.com) or 269-751-4251 Thank you and God Bless!

What is Released Time?

Released Time (RT) is when children from a public school are released from their school day with parent permission to an off campus location (usually a church) and taught about Jesus and the Bible.

**A NIGHT OF CHEERING ON THE  
GRAND RAPIDS GRIFFINS!**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 25 @ 7 PM**



**Grand Rapids Griffins  
vs.  
San Jose Barracuda**



**UPPER BOWL, CENTER ICE  
\$18/TICKET**

**Sign-up and payment due by  
January 9.**

**CASH OR CHECK MADE TO ORC  
PAY IN CHURCH OFFICE**

# Mom 2 Mom ReSale

MARCH 9, 2019  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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## Space Rental Cost

- 8'x6'=\$10
- 10'x10'=\$15
- Vendor Space 8'x10'=\$25

## Table Rental Cost

- 60" round=\$2
- 3'x8'=\$2
- Bring your own for free!

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Spaces reserve on a first come, first served basis. All spaces will first be rented out to members and regular attendees of ORC and must be reserved by January 27, 2019. Beginning January 28, members of the community may reserve a space to sell their items.

Admission fee \$1/person/12+

Cash sales only (no checks accepted)

Overisel Reformed Church, 4706 142nd Ave  
Holland, MI 49423  
269-751-8744  
office@orcministries.org

## Nursery Schedule for January 2019

Date	Service	Adult Helper	Youth Helper
January 6	AM	Emily Heavener Mary Slotman	Avery Reimink Brianna Laarman
	PM	Amanda Flokstra	
January 13	AM	Jessica Nagelkirk Kate Blauwkamp	Elyse Genzink Erica De Jonge
	PM	Christine Andersen	
January 20	AM	Susan Lickley Amber Velderman	Laura Boeve Noah Laarman
	PM	Lynnae Genzink	
January 27	AM	Cassie De Kleine Emily Bronson	Brandon Lubbers Jenna Schierbeek
	PM	Pam Mc Donald	

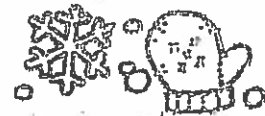


Cleaning Toys: Cassie De Kleine



## Nursery Schedule for February 2019

February 3	AM	Jessica Tubergen Tanya Folkert	Emily Mc Donald Emily Schierbeek
	PM	Christine Andersen	
February 10	AM	Emily Heavener Tracy Lubbers	Brooke Jipping Rayah Blood
	PM	Amanda Flokstra	
February 17	AM	Jessica Nagelkirk Kelli Nauta	Sydney Reimink Tori Folkert
	PM	Jill Koopman	
February 24	AM	Susan Lickley Mary Lubbers	Zach Lubbers Kaitlyn Lubbers
	PM	Kim Dalman	



Cleaning Toys: Jessica Nagelkirk



# David's Beautiful Song

## Psalm 23

Psalm 23 is one of the most beautiful songs ever written. It contains 119 words and can be read aloud in about 30 seconds. Yet this short passage is a powerful expression of God's love. If you have not already done so, memorize this psalm as you work the puzzle. Use the key words to help you recall the verses that you cannot remember in detail. In the secret phrase, Jesus uses words from Psalm 23 to describe Himself.

LORD	WATERS	VALLEY	PRESENCE	LOVE
SHEPHERD	RESTORES	SHADOW	ENEMIES	FOLLOW
GREEN	SOUL	DEATH	ANOINT	DAYS
PASTURES	GUIDES	STAFF	HEAD	LIFE
BESIDE	PATHS	COMFORT	SURELY	DWELL
QUIET	WALK	TABLE	GOODNESS	HOUSE

I S E D I U G C A S M T  
H T F O L L O W H Y H E  
W A L K D M O A Y A T G  
O F O A F D D N L D A S  
S F E O R O N O E D E H  
T H R C W E E I R R D E  
A T H E N E S N U O S P  
B E S I D E S T S L E H  
L G P H T D S U O H I E  
E S R E T A W E O R M R  
E R I E P A V E R H E D  
L U O S E O P D L P N S  
Q E F I L N V A L L E Y

### Secret Phrase

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

\_\_\_\_\_.” ... - John 10:14



## Cultivate Community Church Update

*Psalm 9:1 I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of your wonderful deeds.*

Dear Overisel family-

We want to share with you what God is doing at Cultivate and thank you for your support and prayers over the last two years. Because of you, many lives are being changed. Below are a few stories of individuals who have given their lives to Jesus; as you will see some have been in the church for most of their lives, some have been away from the church and some have come for the very first time.

I've been in the church my whole life, starting with infant baptism and committing my life to Christ at church camp in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. I fell away a bit at the end of high school and beginning of college, but I was blessed to be surrounded by some amazing family and friends who helped me grow in my faith, which got me back on the right path. Since college my wife and I have moved a lot for work, which brought us through various churches in different towns. Believer baptism was a consistent theme throughout the churches we attended. It became clear that this was something I wanted to do as an act of obedience to God and to publicly reconfirm my faith in Jesus. He is the reason I am alive and has blessed me in more ways than I can count. Now that we are a part of Cultivate, I feel like I'm finally surrounded by a community of believers where I feel at home. I know that Cultivate will support and push me in my walk with Jesus, I can't wait to see where that walk takes me in this life.

My journey started about 9 months ago...I was talking to a very dear friend of mine about churches and she asked me where me and my family went... At that point sadly, we were not attending any. She told me to join her and her family at Cultivate Community Church. Man!!! Was it a game changer! From the moment we stepped in we were greeted with open arms. After listening to the sermon it spoke to me 100% and I knew this was where me and my family belonged! We were all in!! My family and I attended the public baptisms at Triponds Family Camp Resort and at the very end they invited anybody else to join in. At the last second, I decided to renew my relationship with Jesus Christ! When God speaks to you, listen!

When I started going to church, I didn't believe in God or want to go to church for that matter....but after sitting there week after week listening I kept thinking – “wow, that's how I feel right now!”. I was in a rough spot in my life. I had a lot of hurt and pain in my life. There was always a common theme of how to make things better.....accept Jesus into your heart. I wasn't sure about it for a while. But one day something changed in me. While

listening to the service I became hot, sweaty and tingly. I felt something change inside myself. Jesus had entered my heart. At the end of the service the question was asked, "did you feel Jesus today?" If you did, please stand. I had no choice but to stand because I knew my life was forever changed. Since that day my life has been immeasurably better. I don't feel alone as I often did before. Even in the face of difficult situations in life, I have no fear because I know God is always with me.

*2 Corinthians 4:15 says, For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. Join with us as we give glory for all He is doing.*

*Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year .*

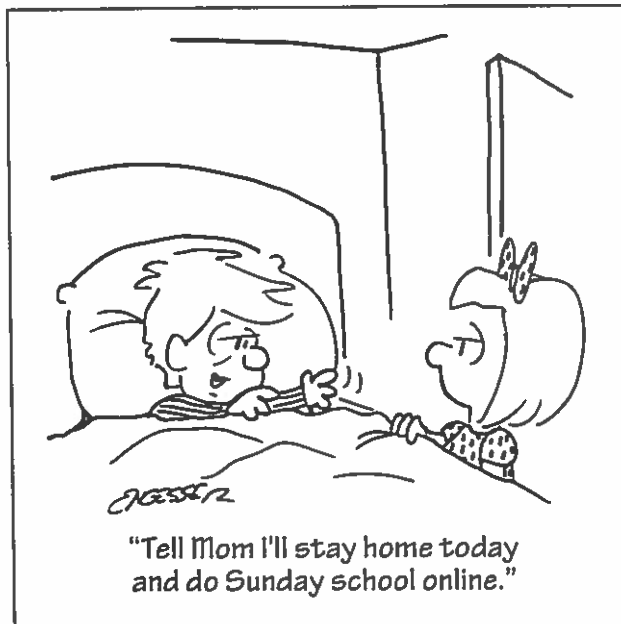
## Lessons in Wise Faith

"The Magi teach us true faith" says Martin Luther. Given the obstacles they encountered, we would understand if they had given up altogether.

First, the travelers were off the mark, coming to Jerusalem to see a newborn king in a "royal palace". Then, directed to Bethlehem, the wise men found a sight "so utterly out of keeping with a king"—a poor young woman and child, in a "poor hut"—that one might expect them to head straight home.

"But" declares Luther, "with a great, strong and full faith, they follow the word of the prophet and the witness of the star in all purity of heart," bowing to worship and honor the Savior.

Based on Luther's sermon for the Festival of the Epiphany (1522) Luther's Works



*Happy New Year* ♪ *Happy New Year* ♪ *Happy New Year* ♪

**Owerisel Reformed Church**  
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Sunday Morning Service – 9:30

Sunday Evening Service – 5:00

In the Sanctuary

Revolution Service – 5:00

In the Family Life Center

September thru May

Sunday School – 10:50 – 11:30

September thru May

Wednesdays@ ORC

Supper – 5:30 – 6:20

Family Night Activities – 6:30-8:00

October thru March

Church Office

Open Monday thru Friday

from 9:00 – 2:00

269-751-8744

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**Youth Pastor**

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