

Care & Share

From the Pastor's Heart

Jesus is with you

Dear Family

There is a song by the Porter's Gate Worship Project called "Wake Up, Jesus," and the first verse of the song contains the following words, based on Mark 4:35-41, where the disciples find themselves in a storm:

Jesus, when you gonna wake up
When you gonna wake up and calm this raging sea
Jesus, when you gonna wake up
When you gonna wake up
How can you sleep when we're in need

Don't the words of this song ring true to our human experience? How often do we feel like crying out to Jesus, "When you gonna wake up?" Whether it's a relationship challenge, a financial challenge, a health challenge, a crisis of faith, or whatever the case may be – we sometimes reach that point where we simply cannot understand why Jesus seems to be sleeping. Why isn't he intervening? Why isn't he answering our cry for help?

These moments in life are real, painful, and difficult. They cannot simply be ignored or brushed aside. Yet, by the grace of God, we need to face these moments – these storms – with faith. We need to be reminded that Jesus is with us in these storms, even if it doesn't seem or feel that way. Are you facing some kind of storm at the moment? Take courage – Jesus is with you and he is able to calm the storm inside you and around you.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Marno

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

A month has gone by. Temperatures have been very mild. It makes me think that we live in the best part of Canada. There are many places that have experienced much harsher weather. Something that we should be very thankful for. At the beginning of the month we started out the year as a clean sheet. Sadness and uncertainties have already been experienced in our church family. In our family, we have already received a couple of phone calls about serious health concerns. What is God telling us? Why does one family experience so much more heartache than the other? Is God playing favourites? There are places in the Bible that tell us about people who loved God deeply (David, Job, etc.) and they cried to God, "Where are you?". We can do that as well. Keep the contact open. God knows who you are and what you are experiencing. Our prayer is that we all may experience peace during hard time and that we would persevere through challenges in our lives.

Our sincere condolences to Ynske Kaemingh, her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren with Ted's passing early in the morning of January 3. It was so very sudden. On the 1st of January, I was joking with him in church, the next day he was taken to hospital and the next morning he was called home to be with the Lord. He will be missed. Ted was an active member. He gave a lot to his church family. I found a quote in *The Purpose Driven Life* (written by Rick Warren): "You weren't put on earth to be remembered. You were put here to prepare for eternity. Earth is not our final home; we were created for something much better."

Two weeks ago, on the 15th of January, we were able to witness and celebrate the baptism of Kendal Marie Koomans. It was a special worship service.

Jan Van Zwol will be having cataract surgery on February 3 in Winnipeg. Please pray for safe travels and that the surgery would be successful.

Remember Theo & MarieAnn deGroot and Arnold & Carol Kaemingh and families in your prayers. Theo and Carol's sister, Ann deGelder, is in hospice care in Red Deer, Alberta.

Eltjo and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, well wishes and those who came to visit. All of your support is greatly appreciated.

Thank-you. Eltjo and Dorothy Wiersema

Congratulations to Arnold & Cindy Kaemingh with the birth of a grandson, Domenic Muir, born to Matt and Leanne on January 13.

A reminder that if you have changed your address/telephone number/email address, etc. from the 2021 Church Directory, to please email those changes to emocrc@gmail.com.

Our seniors celebrating February birthdays are Wilma Wielinga on the 3rd and Harold Smart on the 12th. We have one student celebrating a birthday in February. Katrina Kooman's birthday is on the 12th. She is at Dordt College. If you would like to send her a birthday greeting you can email her at katrinakoomans@gmail.com

Celebrating 40+ anniversaries in February is Corrie & Janice Wiersema (60th on the 16th).

We wish everyone celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in February, a blessed day!

Thought for the Month:

*I know not what the future holds,
but I know Who holds the future.*

A card was received from the Emo Food Bank:

Christian Reformed Church members:

I can't express how much I appreciate the continual support of the church members to the Emo Food Bank.

You've made a difference in the lives of many by donating food items. It is appreciated!

Thanks, Charlene

Emo Food Bank

From Mark & Tina Mast:

Dear friends at Emo CRC,

Thank you so much for the recent offering that you sent to One Hope Canada for our financial support. We are deeply grateful for the faithful support that you are to us in ministry and for encouraging us especially through your prayers. Thanks for the countless ways you have been a blessing to us through your sacrifices on our behalf as we serve with One Hope Canada.

May the Lord be glorified in each of our lives as we live surrendered to Christ throughout 2023!

Looking to Jesus,

Mark & Tina Mast

From the Church Library:

The following books are missing from the shelves; maybe you took them home to read but forgot to sign out the book cards. Please check you book stash and if you find any of these books, please return them to the Church Library Book Return box.

The Lord Has Been So Good To Me (Copy 1)	Esselink, John	Non Fiction
The Eighty-Dollar Champion	Letts, Elizabeth	Non Fiction
Nightmare's Academy	Perretti	Adult Fiction
Help! My Marriage Has Grown Cold	Thomas	Non Fiction
After Auschwitz	Schloss	Non Fiction
One God One Plan One Life	Lucado	Non Fiction
Live In Grace, Walk In Love	Goff	Non Fiction
Touches the Sky	Schaap	Fiction
Five-Minute Bible Devotions ; Celebrating God's World	Kennedy	Children's
Berenstain Bears and the New Baby	Berenstain	Children's

From CRCNA:

You are making a difference! On behalf of the ministries of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, thank you for your gifts to ministry shares. Your support enables congregations to do so much more to further God's Kingdom than any one church could do alone. Our denomination could not impact the world through missions, media, and church development without your incredible and faithful support. Thank you! To discover more visit crcna.org/ministryshares.

23 January 2023

Annual Report to Classis Lake Superior
Rev Gerald Van Smeerdyk
Elim Village
Chaplain

Greetings,

It has now been a year and a half since I retired as a military chaplain in the Canadian Armed Forces. It is abundantly clear to me that the Lord has led me to take up the ministry of Chaplaincy in Surrey, BC at Elim. Elim is a Christian Long-Term Care Facility and Retirement Home founded by members of the First Christian Reformed Church of Langley – now called the Willoughby CRC. Elim provides elderly people with Independent Living, Assisted Living and End of Life Care. Since I began my employment here, I have been working in Full Care.

Full Care, as the name suggests, provides residency to elderly people who are severely frail, physically or cognitively, or both. Along with regular visitation and chaplain support to these residents and their families, I also provide two worship services each Sunday and a Bible study each Monday.

I am part of an excellent team of other chaplains, 4 in total, who minister with me in the other care settings at Elim. We meet weekly and support each other by sharing about our lives and ministry and by praying for each other and Elim. We work closely with the care staff of doctors, nurses, care aids and wellness assistants and support them as well. The Lord continues to be my strength and leads and guides us by his Spirit as we minister to the needs of our residents. We see his hand at work in us through the outpouring of gratitude by the residents and staff.

We are currently praying for the provision of another chaplain who will provide support while I and another chaplain receive surgery this spring. I need to have my right hip replaced, and the other chaplain will soon receive knee replacement surgery. Please pray for the doctors and nurses who provide us with this needed care, that their work may bless us with renewed strength.

We would also appreciate your prayers of support for myself and another chaplain as our fathers are in their last days. We both rejoice that they are children of our heavenly Father and we know they are in the Lord's hands, but this is a hard time for us. Pray for peace and strength that we may continue our work in the joy of the Lord.

This year I have also become a member of the Chaplaincy Ministry Advisory Council (CMAC) and play an active role in supporting our chaplains and interviewing new candidates for this important ministry. It was always a wonderful task to be involved in the recruiting and care of other chaplains when I was in the military and I am grateful that I may now continue this work for our denomination.

Recently, at the conclusion of another Bible study, one of the members burst into spontaneous praise, lifting his hands in prayer, thanking our Lord Jesus for his care and presence in this challenging chapter of his life. The Lord is faithful, and we rejoice in the opportunity to be servants in his ministry.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter,

May the God of grace and compassion continue to strengthen and bless us all in his mighty work,
Gerald Van Smeerdyk

Dear praying friends,

We are providing some current prayer requests and covet your prayers for the ministry endeavors we are offering throughout the winter months.

Thank you so much for upholding us before the Lord.

Looking to Jesus,

Mark & Tina Mast

1. Pray for Mark and the "GO!" team returning to Guatemala January 23-31. Praise the Lord for 143 students attending the Christian School that was built and for countless opportunities to serve and make Jesus known. Pray especially for the construction of Grace, Love and Mercy Church. The walls are going up! Mark and the team will be helping with construction, along with conducting many ministry events for children, teens and adults.
2. Pray for the people of Pikangikum First Nation. Mark taught Christian Education at the Eenchokay Birchstick School for four weeks last Fall and will be returning Lord-willing in the Spring to teach again. Pray as well for the Church in Pikangikum to be vibrant and effective in reaching the lost, discipling new believers and preaching the Word.
3. Pray for completion of construction of the new multi-purpose ministry center in Border, MN. This new church building is nearing completion and the interior work is being completed throughout the winter months. Please pray that the first worship service in this new building can be held on Easter Sunday! Also pray for the church in Rainy River where Mark & Tina's son Ben is the pastor.
4. Pray for the Apple Blossoms and Sunflowers discipleship and mentoring programs that Tina and Rachel conduct for girls from the Rainy River District. Pray that the girls will grow in faith and love for Jesus. Pray also for plans being made regarding Bible Schools, Day Camps and the Wilderness Canoe Trip that the Masts will conduct throughout the summer of 2023.
5. Pray for House of Bethel orphanages in India. Mark was blessed to tell the Christmas story and do many "winter antics" with snow by way of Zoom in December. The children were wild with excitement seeing snow for the first time! Please pray for the funding needed to purchase a large TV and projector in order for Mark to teach the children more effectively on a regular basis. There is an ongoing need for Christian literature and Bible teaching materials as well. Last year, over \$7,500 was sent to cover costs of literature, food, clothes and gifts for 100 orphans. Pray for Pastor Elijah & Sunitha Naik as they care for these precious children and also pastor area churches around Gunter.
6. Praise for the Sunday worship services and mid-week "Prayer & Praise" services that the Masts conduct both in-person and via Zoom each week. The Lord has blessed these endeavors greatly and there has been abundant evidence of His faithful answer to the prayers that have been offered over the past 3 years since Covid began. Also pray for Mark as he preaches in two churches each Sunday.
7. Pray for God's provision regarding Cornerstone Christian School, located in the Rainy River District of Ontario, where Mark & Tina live. The Masts served this school for many years and are thankful that the school is now completely private and separate from the public school board. There are 103 children enrolled for this school year! Pray that there will be unity and direction to provide a strong Christian education for the children's sake. Also pray for finances to operate the school now that there is no assistance from the government.

8. Pray for healing of Mark's Achilles tendon of his right foot. He severely injured it on July 26 at a Day Camp he was conducting in Fort Frances. After many months of waiting for a diagnosis, he was finally able to get an MRI on Saturday, January 7, which revealed that there is "extensive tearing". Please pray for wisdom to know what course of action to take. Pray for the doctors to have direction as to what kind of medical intervention is needed. Pray especially for healing and relief from the daily swelling that sets in.



Family gathering – December 28, 2022



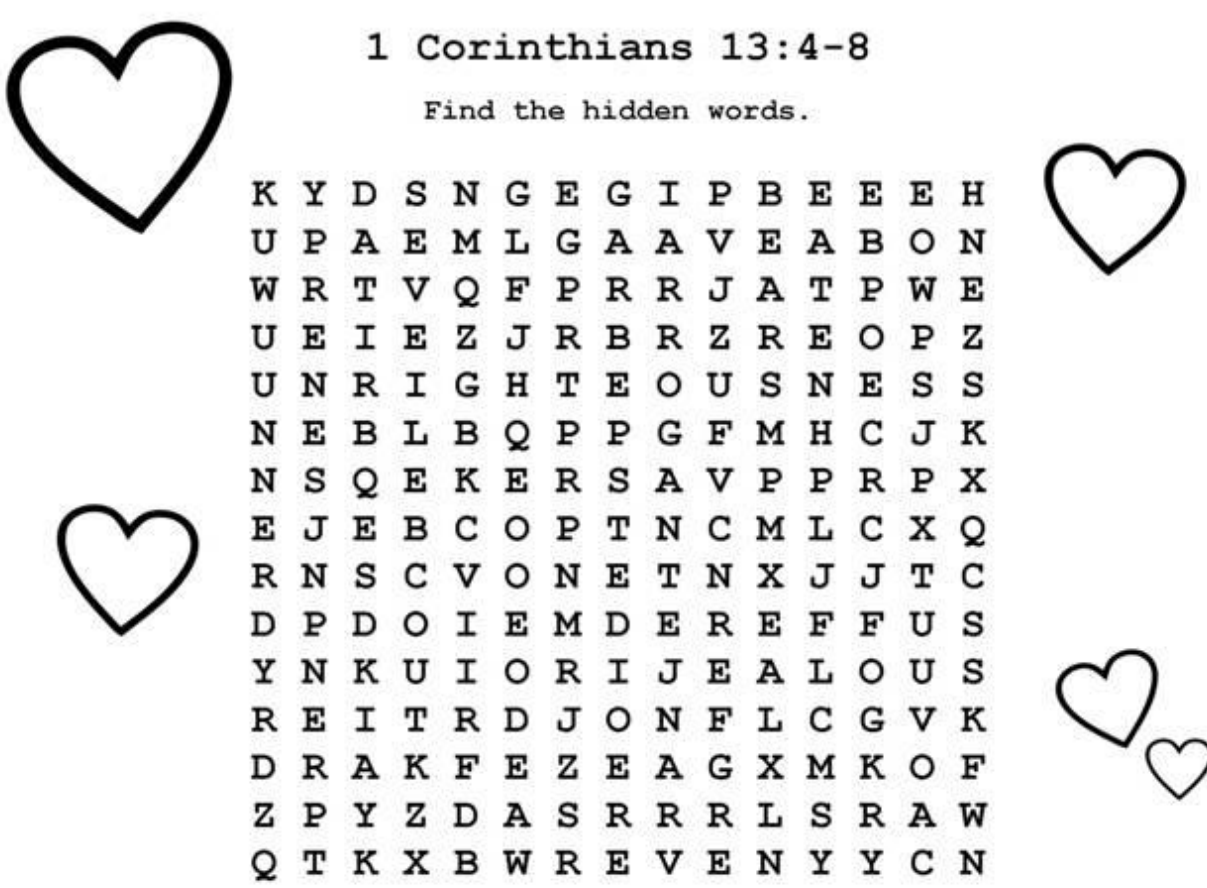
February

	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalms	Proverbs
<input type="checkbox"/> 01	Exodus 13:17-15:18	Matthew 21:23-46	Psalms 26:1-12	Proverbs 6:16-19
<input type="checkbox"/> 02	Exodus 15:19-17:7	Matthew 22:1-33	Psalms 27:1-6	Proverbs 6:20-26
<input type="checkbox"/> 03	Exodus 17:8-19:15	Matthew 22:34-23:12	Psalms 27:7-14	Proverbs 6:27-35
<input type="checkbox"/> 04	Exodus 19:16-21:21	Matthew 23:13-39	Psalms 28:1-9	Proverbs 7:1-5
<input type="checkbox"/> 05	Exodus 21:22-23:13	Matthew 24:1-28	Psalms 29:1-11	Proverbs 7:6-23
<input type="checkbox"/> 06	Exodus 23:14-25:40	Matthew 24:29-51	Psalms 30:1-12	Proverbs 7:24-27
<input type="checkbox"/> 07	Exodus 26:1-27:21	Matthew 25:1-30	Psalms 31:1-8	Proverbs 8:1-11
<input type="checkbox"/> 08	Exodus 28:1-43	Matthew 25:31-26:13	Psalms 31:9-18	Proverbs 8:12-13
<input type="checkbox"/> 09	Exodus 29:1-30:10	Matthew 26:14-46	Psalms 31:19-24	Proverbs 8:14-26
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Exodus 30:11-31:18	Matthew 26:47-68	Psalms 32:1-11	Proverbs 8:27-32
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Exodus 32:1-33:23	Matthew 26:69-27:14	Psalms 33:1-11	Proverbs 8:33-36
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Exodus 34:1-35:9	Matthew 27:15-31	Psalms 33:12-22	Proverbs 9:1-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Exodus 35:10-36:38	Matthew 27:32-66	Psalms 34:1-10	Proverbs 9:7-8
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Exodus 37:1-38:31	Matthew 28:1-20	Psalms 34:11-22	Proverbs 9:9-10
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Exodus 39:1-40:38	Mark 1:1-28	Psalms 35:1-16	Proverbs 9:11-12
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Leviticus 1:1-3:17	Mark 1:29-2:12	Psalms 35:17-28	Proverbs 9:13-18
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Leviticus 4:1-5:19	Mark 2:13-3:6	Psalms 36:1-12	Proverbs 10:1-2
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Leviticus 6:1-7:27	Mark 3:7-30	Psalms 37:1-11	Proverbs 10:3-4
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Leviticus 7:28-9:6	Mark 3:31-4:25	Psalms 37:12-29	Proverbs 10:5
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Leviticus 9:7-10:20	Mark 4:26-5:20	Psalms 37:30-40	Proverbs 10:6-7
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Leviticus 11:1-12:8	Mark 5:21-43	Psalms 38:1-22	Proverbs 10:8-9
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Leviticus 13:1-59	Mark 6:1-29	Psalms 39:1-13	Proverbs 10:10
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Leviticus 14:1-57	Mark 6:30-56	Psalms 40:1-10	Proverbs 10:11-12
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Leviticus 15:1-16:28	Mark 7:1-23	Psalms 40:11-17	Proverbs 10:13-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Leviticus 16:29-18:30	Mark 7:24-8:10	Psalms 41:1-13	Proverbs 10:15-16
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Leviticus 19:1-20:21	Mark 8:11-38	Psalms 42:1-11	Proverbs 10:17
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Leviticus 20:22-22:16	Mark 9:1-29	Psalms 43:1-5	Proverbs 10:18
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Leviticus 22:17-23:44	Mark 9:30-10:12	Psalms 44:1-8	Proverbs 10:19

Love Word Search

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Find the hidden words.



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

Is **PATIENT**

Is **KIND**

Is Not **JEALOUS**

Does Not **BRAG**

Is Not **ARROGANT**

Does Not Act **UNBECOMINGLY**

Does Not Seek Its **OWN**

Is Not **PROVOKED**

Does Not Take Into Account A
Wrong **SUFFERED**

Does Not Rejoice In
UNRIGHTEOUSNESS

REJOICES With The Truth



BEARS All Things

BELIEVES All Things

HOPES All Things

ENDURES All Things

FEBRUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Paisley Esselink 10:00 COFFEE BREAK	2	3 Lucas Koomans Wilma Wielinga	4
5 10:00 WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL CATECHISM 5:00 PRAISE & WORSHIP	6 Aidan Osadchuk 9:45 DORCAS	7 Benita Retief 7:00 COUNCIL	8 10:00 COFFEE BREAK	9 Alida Esselink 6:00 ZOE YOUTH	10	11 Zachary Koomans Corinne Webb
12 Katrina Koomans Harold Smart 10:00 WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL CATECHISM	13	14 	15 10:00 COFFEE BREAK	16 Kylie Veldhuisen Donna Vos *Corrie & Janice Wiersema (60th)	17 Alyssa Koomans	18
19 Cora Vansmeedyk Matt Veldhuisen 10:00 WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL CATECHISM	20 <i>Family Day</i> 	21 Rebekah Crans *Theo & Deb deGroot (14th) 7:00 CONSISTORY	22 10:00 COFFEE BREAK	23 Micah Heerema 6:00 ZOE YOUTH	24 Karen Koomans Kay Redford	25
26 Andrew Veldhuisen 10:00 WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL CATECHISM	27 *Colin & Janine Angus (2nd) *Nico & Jennie Kooistra (2nd)	28 *Brand & Corinne Webb (31st on the 29th)				