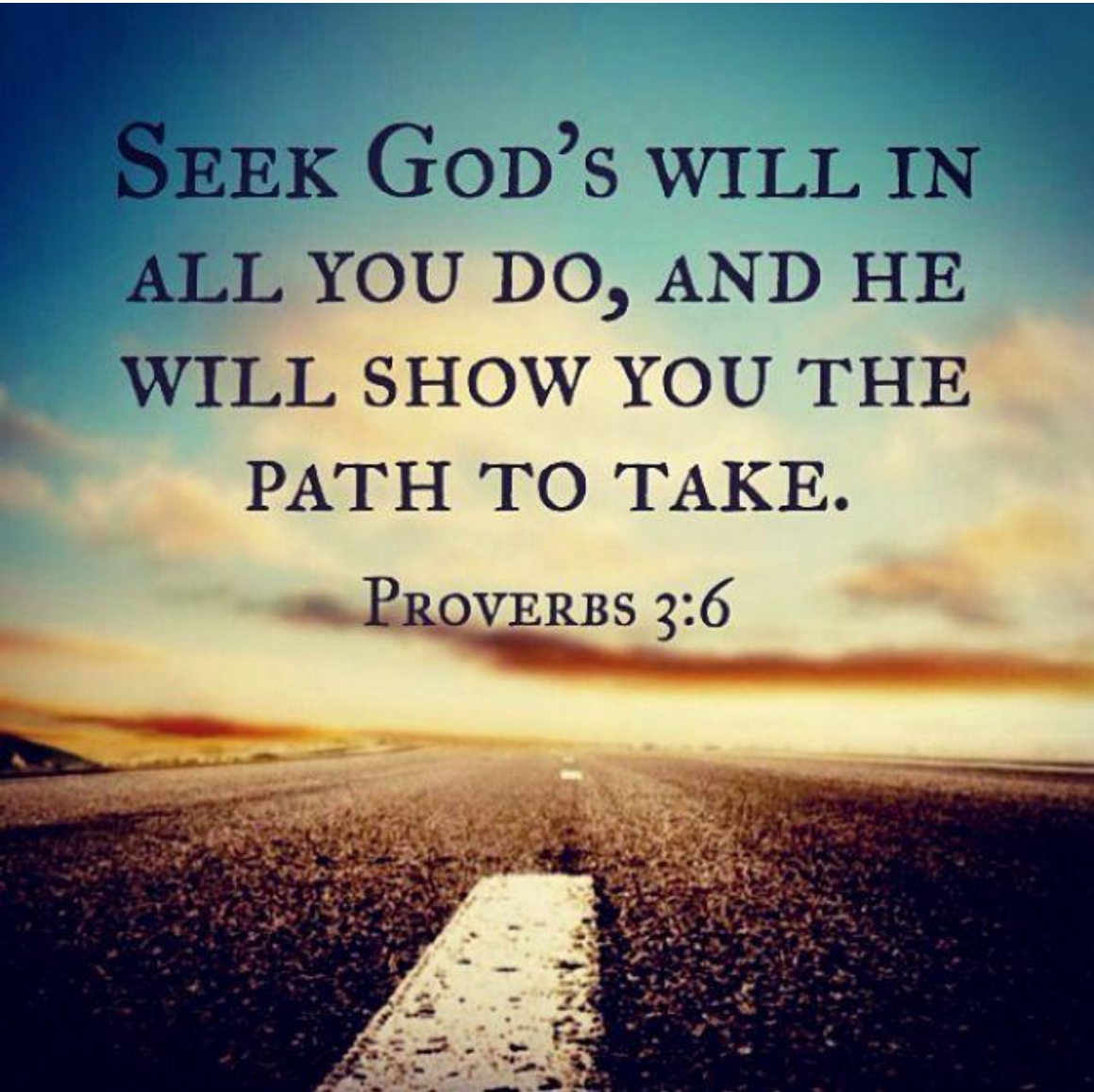


INNERGLOW

**First Reformed Church
Boyden, IA**

LaVonne Sietstra & Teresa Harms, Editors



SEEK GOD'S WILL IN
ALL YOU DO, AND HE
WILL SHOW YOU THE
PATH TO TAKE.

PROVERBS 3:6

January 2025



Unclaimed Spiritual Wealth

This is an article I've been saving from Pastor Greg Laurie. I think it's a great thing to keep in mind for 2025. I hope you feel the same!

“And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.” Romans 5:5

“I read an article about a couple in Louisiana who were cleaning up their home and came across an unclaimed lottery ticket worth \$1.8 million. They bought it and had forgotten about it. It was still valid, so they went and claimed their winnings.

That's like us sometimes. Many of us live as though we're spiritually impoverished. We say, 'I need more love, more faith, and more peace.' Yet God is saying, 'I've given these things to you already.'

Romans 5:5 tells us, 'For we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love.' (NLT)

In fact, the first 11 verses of Romans 5 show us some of the amazing things that God has done for us. We have peace with Him (verse 1). We have free and open access into the presence of God, and we have the hope of glory (verse 2). In addition, we have God's love toward us, and we won't face judgment (verses 5-10). Finally, we have joy in the Lord (verse 11).

So God already has given us what we need. But I think at times we're praying for what we already have. Let's say, for example, that you're having troubles in your marriage. The romance is gone, and you're beginning to wonder if the marriage will even last. You're saying, 'I just don't feel the love.' Why don't you start doing loving things instead of waiting to feel the love?

Or maybe you're thinking, 'Well, someone has hurt me. I can't forgive them. I just don't feel it.'

Do it anyway. The emotions will catch up.

Instead of praying to feel forgiveness, instead of praying for more love, just start doing loving things. In time, I think your emotions will match your actions.”

SPIRITUAL
WEALTH:

Do You Live in
Scarcity When
Really You
are Rich?

Wealthy.

True wealth is found when you
happily accept and enjoy all the
gifts that God has given to you,
and spend time with him on this
day that he has made.

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

Praise & Thanks for...

- *all those who went caroling and brought joy to many!**
- *all those who participated in the Baby Bottle Fundraiser for Guiding Star Siouxland**
- *Kaitlyn Rosenboom, Marissa Mouw and the Children & Worship kids for their Christmas program**
- *Sunday School kids for their program on Christmas Eve and to the UP volunteers who helped put it together**
- *all those who helped with the lighting of the Advent candles each week and giving the children's messages**
- *couples celebrating a special anniversary and those celebrating milestone birthdays – may each of you enjoy God's richest blessings in the year ahead**
- *all those who shared a gift and visits with those who struggle to leave their homes**
- *the "retiring" Elders – Brent Fedders and Kathy Ver Meer; Deacons – Chris Diekevers and Ken Hoogendoorn – Thank you for your time and leadership.**
- *friendships and mentors and brothers & sisters-in-Christ – sometimes your kind words help people more than you could ever know!!**
- *another year where we can be a blessing to others, share the Gospel & bring glory to our Heavenly Father!**

**Oh, give thanks to the
Lord, for He is good!
For His mercy endures
forever.
Psalms 107:1**

Pray for...

***those who have lost loved ones whom they miss – Randy Lemke & family for the loss of Anita – Roger Nelson & family for the loss of his mom**

***Bev Kooiker and everyone fighting cancer like super heroes!!**

***the Awana kids and volunteers as they begin classes on Jan 8**

***the Ladies' Daytime Bible study that will (hopefully!) be beginning soon**

***those feeling alone after the families and Christmas parties are over**

***safety for all in the New Year**

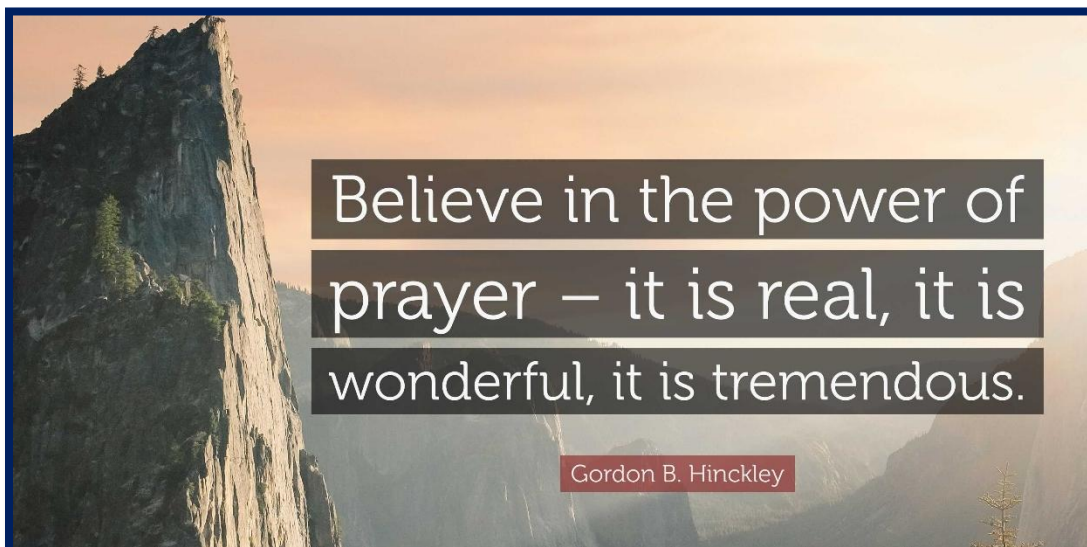
***those struggling mentally, grieving a loved one, separated from loved ones, facing family difficulties, struggling financially, feel lonely, etc, etc**

***Pastor Heath and the Consistory as they carry out the work of the church, especially all the NEW people joining in 2025 – Elders Carla Starkenburg & Alan Warntjes – Deacons Colin Bolkema & Jon Huls**

***the New Year before us – May we live our lives in accordance to God's will and plans that He has for us**

***Reformed Church in America**

***our country and leaders – that they follow God and serve for His glory and the good of the people and not for their own agendas**



GOAL IDEAS

FOR THE NEW YEAR

Health

- Drink more water
- Do yoga
- Meditate
- Choose fresh and healthy foods
- Meal prep
- Get more sleep and rest
- Take vitamins
- Move your body more
- Get more fresh air
- Eliminate a bad habit

Mind

- Journal
- Read more
- Make a new friend
- Practice daily gratitude
- Get organized
- Become more mindful
- Surround yourself with positive people
- Try new things
- Limit screen time
- Make time for self-care
- Choose a daily affirmation

Financial

- Create a budget & stick to it
- Track spending
- Pay off debt (smallest first)
- Plan for fun
- Start an emergency fund

- Save for retirement
- Cut unnecessary spending
- Do a no-spend challenge for a month
- Calculate your net worth
- Save for a specific goal

Work & Career

- Learn a new skill
- Update your resume
- Find a mentor
- Look at your work-life balance
- Attend a networking event
- Master a productivity habit
- Become an expert in your field
- Reach a leadership position
- Apply for a promotion
- Develop your communication skills

Family

- Cook together
- Eat together
- Volunteer as a family
- Save for something

specific together

- Learn a new skill
- Play more games
- Go on a trip
- Do boardgame/movie nights
- Read together
- Spend quality time together without technology

Friendship

- Show support
- Make time to listen
- Compliment each other
- Work out together
- Do something new together
- Have deep conversations
- Be understanding
- Don't be overly critical
- Give them time for their own life
- Don't take each other for granted

Personal Development

- Keep learning
- Find a mentor
- Define your core values
- Attend seminars
- Discover your strengths
- Develop a positive attitude
- Stop procrastinating
- Wake up early
- Be more proactive
- Let go of the past



HYMN OF THE MONTH: “SAFE IN THE ARMS OF JESUS”

“And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.” Mark 10:16

On March 5, 1858, Fanny Crosby, the blind hymnist and America’s “Queen of Gospel Songs,” quietly married Alexander Van Alsteine. A year later, the couple suffered a tragedy that shook the deepest regions of Fanny’s heart.

She gave birth to a child - no one knows if it was a boy or a girl. In later years, she never spoke about it except to say in her oral biography, “God gave us a tender babe,” and “soon the angels came down and took our infant up to God and His throne.”

One of Fanny’s relatives, Florence Paine, lived with the poet for six years and could never get her to talk about this. The child’s death seemed to have devastated her, and she privately bore the sadness all her life.

Years later, on April 30, 1868, musician Howard Doane knocked on the door of Fanny’s apartment in Manhattan. “I have exactly forty minutes,” he said, “before I must meet a train for Cincinnati. I have a tune for you. See if it says anything to you. Perhaps you can commit it to memory and then compose a poem to match it.” He then hummed the tune.

Fanny clapped her hands and said, “Why, that says, ‘Safe in the arms of Jesus!’” She retreated to the other room of her tiny apartment, knelt on the floor, and asked God to give her the words quickly. Within half an hour, she had composed the poem in her mind and dictated it to Doane, who dashed off to catch his train.

During her lifetime, “Safe in the Arms of Jesus” was among the most widely sung of Fanny’s hymns, and she considered it in a class by itself. She claimed it was written for the bereaved, especially for mothers who had lost children. Often when comforting a grief-stricken mother, she would say, “Remember, my dear, your darling cherub is safe in the arms of Jesus.” Rev. John Hall of New York’s Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church told Fanny that her hymn had given more “peace and satisfaction to mothers who have lost their children than any other hymn I have ever known.”

It isn’t hard to understand why.

*Safe in the arms of Jesus, safe on His gentle breast;
There by His love o’ershaded, sweetly my soul shall rest.*



SAFE IN THE ARMS OF JESUS

1. Safe in the arms of Je - sus, Safe on His gen - tle breast,
 2. Safe in the arms of Je - sus, Safe from cor - rod - ing care,
 3. Je - sus, my heart's dear ref - uge, Je - sus has died for me;

D.C.— Safe in the arms of Je - sus, Safe on His gen - tle breast,

There by His love o'er - shad - ed, Sweet - ly my soul shall rest.
 Safe from the world's temp - ta - tions, Sin can - not harm me there.
 Firm on the Rock of Ag - es, Ev - er my trust shall be.

There by His love o'er - shad - ed, Sweet - ly my soul shall rest.

Hark! 'tis the voice of an - gels, Borne in a song to me,
 Free from the blight of sor - row, Free from my doubts and fears;
 Here let me wait with pa - tience, Wait till the night is o'er;

D.C. al Fine

O - ver the fields of glo - ry, O - ver the jas - per sea:
 On - ly a few more tri - als, On - ly a few more tears:
 Wait till I see the morn - ing Break on the gold - en shore:

WORDS BY FANNY J. CROSBY
 MUSIC BY WILLIAM H. DOANE

In Years Gone By ...

50 YEARS AGO – January 1975

I was unable to locate the bulletins from 1975. I will continue to look for them for future Innerglows.

25 YEARS AGO – January 2000

Sympathy wishes were extended to the family and friends of Berendena (Beanie) Vander Tuig.

The church began offering a food bank to those in need the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month from 7:15-8pm. If help was needed outside of the listed times, contact was directed to the Pastor or Charity Committee. Donations were welcomed.

The RCYF & Junior RCYF led Youth Sunday. Those who participated were Michelle Vermeer, Brent Mulder, Mary Mulder, Kayla Nelson, Nichole Uittenbogaard, Scott Winters, Jen Starkenburg, Justin Jiskoot, Mike Van Nyhuis, Deanne Damstra, Matt Wiertzema, Casey Schouten, Barb Warntjes, Michelle Boone, Shane Kleinwolterink, Danielle Moret, Beth Blankers, Dawn De Groot, Andy De Wild, Paige Kleinwolterink, Melanie Korthals, Breanne Lawrence, Michael Mulder, Jonathan Starkenburg, Amanda Warntjes, Julie Warntjes & Taylor Warntjes.

10 YEARS AGO – January 2015

Sympathy wishes were extended to Laryl De Wild and family for the loss of his sister Carleen Nyhuis and to Paul Habbinga and family for the loss of his father Kenneth.

Willis & Mina Uittenbogaard were both living at Pleasant Acres in Hull.

Guest pastors that month included Pastor Brian Schafer, Rev. Katie Van Veldhuizen from Sioux Center, Pastor Bob Rook of Sioux City and Pastor Jason Wiersema from Living Stone Prison Ministry.

5 YEARS AGO – January 2020

A Community Supper was held before Awana sponsored by Churches Learning Change.

Praise and thanks were given to God for the successful surgery on Pastor Dave's thumb.

An evening Woman's Bible study began meeting at the home of Vera Boender.

FUN WITH PICTURES!

Guess who is celebrating a birthday this month?!?!



Fund Balances November 2024

Awana	\$2,745.01
Benevolent Fund	\$24,528.90
Building & Repair Fund	\$9,183.84
General Fund	\$23,457.81
Memorial Fund	\$8,623.32
Mission Fund	\$7,598.19
Women's Ministry	\$2,837.19
Youth Funds	\$2,382.10



Only is Enough

God is not looking for the best qualifications, best ability, best charisma, best prospects type of people – not that He would turn down these sorts automatically, because it's also true that some of the most gifted people in our society have also been some of God's best servants. But that is a coincidence and not a requirement. I think that is because God knows that the vast majority of men and women fall into the "I am only" category. But only is enough with God's help, and it would amaze you what God can make of them.

- Alastair Symington -

Predictions for the New Year

Author Ronald Wilson, in *Stretching the Soul*, describes being certain that four things will occur in the days ahead.

- 1. Trouble will come. Life is difficult. I must mourn as well as dance.**
- 2. In this long journey (of life), I'm not in control. God has reminded us of this.**
- 3. Many times I will fail.**
- 4. I will find forgiveness and get up and go on. God will wipe up the mess I've made of things, take me by the hand and set me back on the right path.**

Praise God for His sure presence during the joys and challenges the new year brings!



Anita Lemke

August 18, 1959

November 29, 2024

Anita Jean Lemke was born on August 18, 1959, in Primghar, Iowa, the daughter of Leonard and Jessamine (Roos) Brooks. She attended Paullina High School, graduating in 1978. Following graduation, Anita attended NCC Community College in Sheldon, Iowa where she majored in secretarial work.

On May 28, 1988, Anita and Randal Lemke were united in marriage at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, Iowa. Together, they made their home in Boyden, Iowa. Anita worked in the office at Farmer's Feed and Supply in Boyden for over 40 years. In her spare time, she enjoyed flower gardening, thrifting and traveling with Randy. She was famous for her peanut balls at Christmas time. Anita was a kind-hearted and generous person with a warm heart. She also adored her cats.

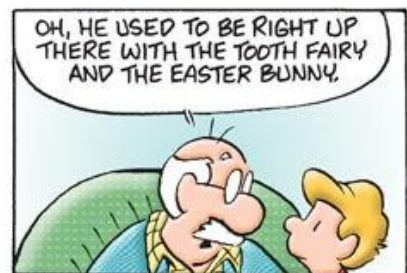
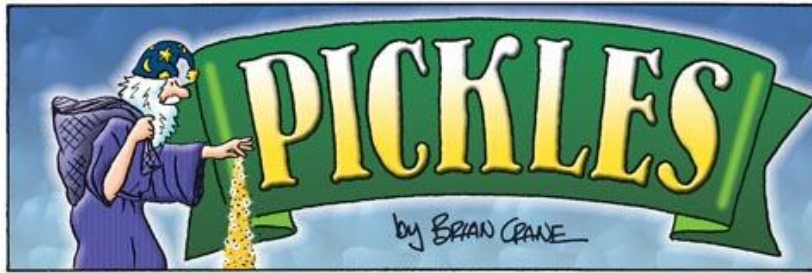
Grateful to have shared her life is her husband, Randall Lemke of Boyden, IA; a brother and his wife, Gary and Mary Brooks of Marcus, IA; nieces and nephews, Jessie (Joe) Peterson and their children, Logan and Whitney of Meriden, IA, Danny Brooks of WI and Casey (Tara) Brooks and their daughter, Evelyn of Maysville, NC; along with many cousins and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and mother-in-law and father-in-law, Vivian and Leland Lemke; an uncle, Leo Brooks; and a cousin, Darlene Brooks.

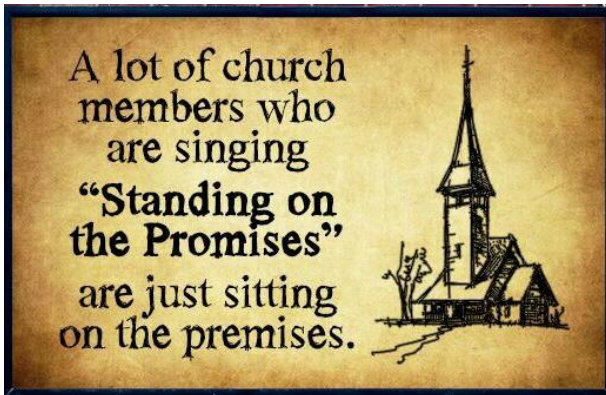
A decorative graphic featuring the words "LOVED" and "BLESSED" in large, pink, sans-serif capital letters. The word "LOVED" is on the top line, and "BLESSED" is on the bottom line. In the center, the word "and" is written in a blue, cursive script. The graphic is flanked by two blue tulip flowers with green leaves and stems. Small pink hearts are scattered around the text.

LOVED
and
BLESSED

HAPPINESS IS ...



© Brian Crane.



Some advice for the new year from Will Rogers -

"Never miss a good chance to shut up."

"If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging."

"The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back in your pocket."

"There are three kinds of men: ones who learn by reading, few who learn by observation, and the rest of them who have to grab the electric fence and find out for themselves."

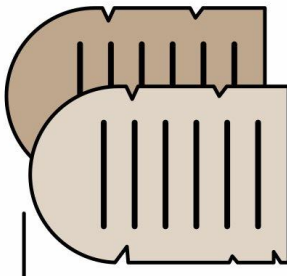
"After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him. The moral: when you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut."

Name _____ Date _____

TEN COMMANDMENTS

Fill in the blanks with the words at the bottom of the page!

- I am the _____ your God. You will have no other gods before me.
- You shall make no _____.
- You shall not take _____ your God in vain.
- Remember the _____ and keep it holy.
- Honor your _____ and mother.
- Do not _____.
- Do not commit _____.
- You shall not _____ from people.
- Do not give _____ testimony against your neighbor.
- Do not _____ other people's things.



Sabbath	Name	Steal	False
Desire	Father	Idols	Kill
Adultery		Lord	

Name _____

Date _____

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

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



Words may appear horizontally, vertically, diagonally, or backwards.

- | | | |
|----------|----------|--------|
| BOYCOTT | PREACHER | LEADER |
| FREEDOM | RIGHTS | MARCH |
| MOVEMENT | DREAM | SPEECH |
| SOUTH | AMERICA | EQUAL |

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
I KNOW GOD HAS A PLAN. I PRAY FOR DIRECTION TO FOLLOW IT, PATIENCE TO WAIT ON IT, AND KNOWLEDGE TO KNOW WHEN IT COMES.			1 Happy New Year! 	2	3	4 
5 Mission Offering	6	7 Men's Group 5:30 am Evening Ladies 7 pm	8 Awana 6-6:30pm meal 6:30-8 pm program	9 	10 Randy Lemke Winston Schmith	11
12 Rev Dr John Hartog III Roger Nelson	13 	14 Men's Group 5:30 am Evening Ladies 7 pm Elders' Mtg 6:30 pm Deacons' Mtg 7 pm Consistory 8 pm Laura Mouw	15 Awana 6-6:30pm meal 6:30-8 pm program	16	17	18 
19 Building & Repair Offering David & Laura Mouw (34)	20 Martin Luther King Jr Day!  I Have A Dream Innerglow news due!	21 Men's Group 5:30 am Evening Ladies 7 pm	22 Awana 6-6:30pm meal 6:30-8 pm program	23	24 	25
26 Pastor Heath De Jong	27 Leila Moret	28 Men's Group 5:30 am Evening Ladies 7 pm	29 Awana 6-6:30pm meal 6:30-8 pm program Wanda Slykhuis	30 	31 Natilie Schmith	