

# INNERGLOW

First Reformed Church

Boydén, IA

LaVonne Sietstra & Teresa Harms, Editors



February 2025



# From your Church Secretary!

## What is Salvation?

In Awana, I lead the large group for the Sparks. I have 2 classes. The first class consists of all Kindergarteners. And this past week, they had a ton of questions! Really, good questions!! Like, how old is God?, God created everything so then who created God? What does baptism mean? I didn't spend too much time thinking about the answers because I was afraid I'd mess it up!! I just let the Holy Spirit speak through me. Their questions reminded me of an article I saved that answered questions that many people have about being a Child of God. This month I'm sharing the section about Salvation. Enjoy!!

Salvation is God's grace. It is the gift of freedom from our sins that Jesus made possible by taking the punishment for our sins on the cross. Through this gift, 1 John 1:9 promises that "If we confess our sins, He who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." This is one of the most important promises of Scripture; it gives us freedom and hope for the future. God is faithful and daily invites us to find new life in response to that faithfulness.

It sounds too good to be true. It sounds too easy. Even though it may seem too good for words, or completely different from anything you have ever experienced before, it is the truth of God. This is the beauty and mystery of grace - receiving a forgiveness that we don't deserve!

### SALVATION IS FOR SOMETHING, NOT JUST FROM IT

Sometimes it seems like the Christian life is all about being saved and then helping other people get saved. But when we go a little deeper, we discover that being "saved" means that we are saved not only *from* something - our sins - but also *for* something.

It is important to realize that we are saved from our sins, but it is also important to realize that we are saved for something. We are saved so that we can carry out the purpose for which God has us on earth; to share the good news of God's grace and to be the hands and feet of Christ in this world, showing God's love through our actions.

### SALVATION IS A PROCESS, NOT A ONE-TIME EVENT

Receiving salvation through Jesus Christ isn't the end of the process of being saved. It is the beginning of a lifelong process of being continually shaped into the people that God intends us to be. This means becoming more and more like Christ - something we do in grateful thanksgiving for our salvation. As we become more like Christ, God works through us to share Christ's love and grace with the world.

Salvation is the free gift that God offers to us. Our lives, lived in a manner that pleases God, are our offerings of thanksgiving back to God.



We are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus to a lost and lonely world!

# **Praise & Thanks for...**

**\*white snow which reminds us of Psalm 51:7 – “wash me and I will be whiter than snow”**

**\*the gift of Faith**

**\*Biblical, Christ-centered worship**

**\*family and friends who love us**

**\*God’s timeless love**

**\*Elders & Deacons as they give of their time and all those who are serving in some capacity at Boyden First**

**\*Pastor Heath**

**\*each member of Boyden First**

**\*answers to personal prayers**

**\*opportunities to worship**

**\*God-sightings**

**\*a warm home while the freezing wind blows outside**

**\*opportunities to laugh until your belly hurts!**

*Thank You  
Jesus*



# Pray for...

**\*Wendy De Jong and Pastor Heath and family for the loss of her grandmother  
Rosemary Hoffman**

**\*those who have to work out in the cold!**

**\*those confined to their homes or living in care facilities and may be feeling  
lonely these frigid days**

**\*all those who have experienced the devastation of natural disasters –  
flooding, fires, snowstorms, etc**

**\*all those who live in war-torn areas and experience things we cannot even  
imagine but that God knows**

**\*our political leaders in the United States and around the world**

**\*Pastor Heath & the consistory as they make decisions for our church**

**\*each member of your family by name**

**\*personal family needs, concerns or disappointments & extended family  
members and friends who may have injuries or health issues**

**\*the Boyden Awana program**

**\*the people of the world who do not know Jesus' love**

**\*God's discernment in your life and you following it!**



# Valentine's Day Bible & Family Friendly Feud!

Fill out your answers to the following questions. The "top answers" and their point values will be in next month's Innerglow. Good luck!!

Besides a church, name a place you might walk down the aisle

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Members of what occupation traditionally receive the most Valentine's.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Name something you associate with Eve from the Bible.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Name a saying on a Valentine conversation heart candy.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

Name a man who was tempted in the Bible.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

Besides "darling", name a popular term of endearment.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

Name a famous couple in the Bible.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

According to 1 Corinth.13:4-8, "Love is patient, love is kind" Love does not what?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

What's another word for "love."

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_



# HYMN OF THE MONTH:

## ***"I AM HIS, AND HE IS MINE"***

*"...the birds of the heavens have their home; They sing among the branches."*  
*Psalm 104:12 (NKJV)*

Some hymnals list this as "Loved with Everlasting Love." It's a wonderful hymn of assurance, written by an Irish pastor named George Wade Robinson. Born in Cork, Ireland, in 1838, Robinson attended college in Dublin, then in London; and he later pastored in both Dublin and London, then in the seacoast community of Brighton. He enjoyed writing poetry, and three volumes were published: *Iona and Other Sonnets*, *Loveland*, and *Songs in God's World*. This poem is the only one that has endured the generations.

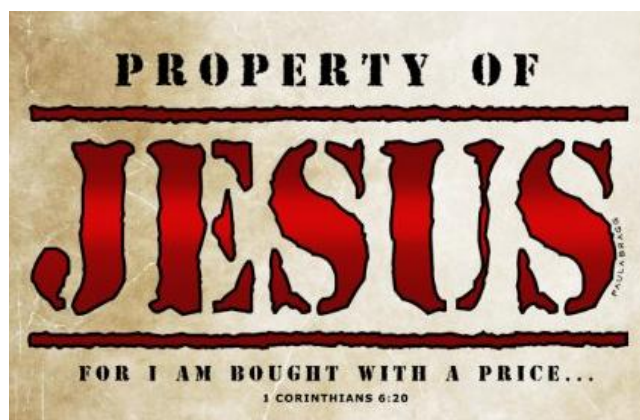
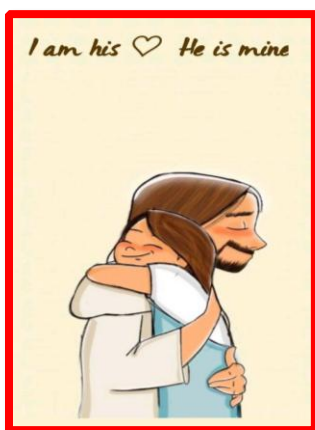
I especially like the second verse, for it reminds us of the freshness that fills our hearts when we trust Christ as our Savior. The words say:

*Heav'n above is softer blue, Earth around is sweeter green!  
Something lies in every hue Christless eyes have never seen;  
Birds with gladder songs o'erflow, flowers with deeper beauties shine,  
Since I know, as I now know, I am His, and He is mine.*

I have no way of proving this, but I believe Robinson's words were inspired by Moody's testimony. D.L. Moody and Ira Sankey were setting Great Britain on fire. Their first evangelistic campaign to England and Ireland occurred in 1873, and Moody must have given his testimony many times and in many places. Robinson must have listened in rapt attention. Compare his verse to what Moody later wrote about the time he came to Jesus Christ as a teenage in Boston:

*I remember the morning on which I came out of my room after I had first trusted Christ. I thought the old sun shone a good deal brighter than it ever had before - I thought it was just smiling upon me; and as I walked out upon Boston Common and heard the birds singing in the trees I thought they were all singing a song to me. Do you know, I fell in love with the birds? I had never cared for them before. It seemed to me that I was in love with all creation. I had not a bitter feeling against any man.*

The presence of Christ in our hearts makes the sun brighter, the sky bluer, the grass greener, the birds sweeter, and the flowers lovelier - since we know, as now we know, that "I am His, and He is mine."



# 748 I Am His and He Is Mine

Your life is now hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:3

1. Loved with ev - er - last - ing love, Led by grace that love to know;  
2. Heav'n a - bove is soft - er blue; Earth a - round is sweet - er green.  
3. Things that once were wild a - larms Can - not now dis - turb my rest.  
4. His for - ev - er, on - ly His; Who the Lord and me shall part?

Gra - cious Spir - it from a - bove, Thou hast taught me it is so.  
Some - thing lives in ev - ery hue Christ - less eyes have nev - er seen.  
Closed in ev - er - last - ing arms, Pil - lowed on the lov - ing breast -  
Ah, with what a rest of bliss Christ can fill the lov - ing heart!

O this full and per - fect peace! O this trans - port all di - vine!  
Birds with glad - der songs o'er - flow; Flow'rs with deep - er beau - ties shine,  
O to lie for - ev - er here, Doubt and care and self re - sign  
Heav'n and earth may fade and flee; First - born light in gloom de - cline.

In a love which can - not cease, I am His and He is mine. mine.  
Since I know, as now I know, I am His and He is mine. mine.  
While He whis - pers in my ear, I am His and He is mine. mine.  
But while God and I shall be, I am His and He is mine. mine.

TEXT: George W. Robinson  
MUSIC: James Mountain

EVERLASTING LOVE  
7.7.7.7.D.

# In Years Gone By ...

## **50 YEARS AGO – February 1975**

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

## **25 YEARS AGO – February 2000**

There was an open house honoring Margaret Moret for her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Sympathy wishes were extended to the friends and family of Abe H. Van Roekel.

Two new families were welcomed to the congregation thru transfer of memberships – Brent & Shari Fedders and their sons from Worthington, MN and a welcome back to Gerald & Pat Harms from George.

## **10 YEARS AGO – February 2015**

Sympathy wishes were extended to the friends and family of Marion Menning.

Operation Christmas Child shared numbers for the year 2014 - Iowa 69,767; Upper Midwest 498,255; and total for the United States 7,991,643! Praise the Lord!

Guest pastors February included Pastor Doug Van Aartsen, Troy Van Beek and Preston Moerman.

## **5 YEARS AGO – February 2020**

Sympathy wishes were extended to the Jamie Koele family and Billie Miller family for the loss of their father Edwin Koele.

Guest pastors this month included Rev. Dave Heilman, Rev. Dennis Hietbrink, Pastor Doug Van Aartsen and Richard Schwanke.

Bible study opportunities were shared for everyone including a daytime women's study, a night-time women's study and a weekend men's study.





# FUN WITH PICTURES!

Do you recognize this couple from their prom picture? Aah, young love for the month of February!!



## Fund Balances December 2024

<b>Awana</b>	<b>\$2,682.48</b>
<b>Benevolent Fund</b>	<b>\$18,068.30</b>
<b>Building &amp; Repair Fund</b>	<b>\$9,519.25</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$31,373.34</b>
<b>Memorial Fund</b>	<b>\$8,623.32</b>
<b>Mission Fund</b>	<b>\$7,690.19</b>
<b>Women's Ministry</b>	<b>\$2,837.19</b>
<b>Youth Funds</b>	<b>\$2,382.10</b>



### The Alphabet Prayer

-Homiletics-

Many of us need to be more like the little girl whom the farmer found lost in his meadow. The farmer said to her, "Do not cry; I'll take you home."

The little child snuggled up to him, and with a smile, said, "I knew you would; I was waiting for you."

"Waiting for me?" said the man. "What made you think I was coming?"

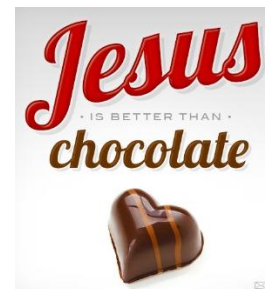
"I was praying you would," she said.

"Praying? When I first heard you, you were saying 'A - B - C - D - E - F - G.' What was that for?"

She looked up again and said, "I'm just a little girl. I was praying all the letters of the alphabet and letting God put them together the way He wanted. He knows I was lost, and He knows how to put words together better than I do."

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

# HAPPINESS IS ...



## Valentine's Day Funnies!

"All you need is love, but a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."

Charles Schultz

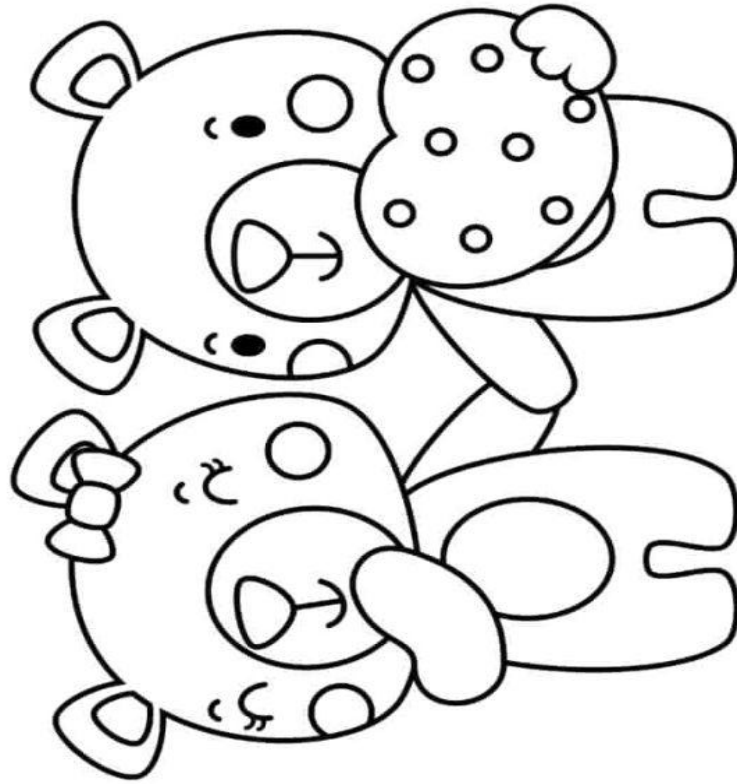
"Without Valentine's Day, February would be ... well, January."

Jim Gaffigan

"Forget Valentine's Day, I'm just waiting for the discounted chocolate on February 15<sup>th</sup>!" Unknown

"You're never alone on Valentine's Day if you're near a lake and you have bread." Mike Primavera

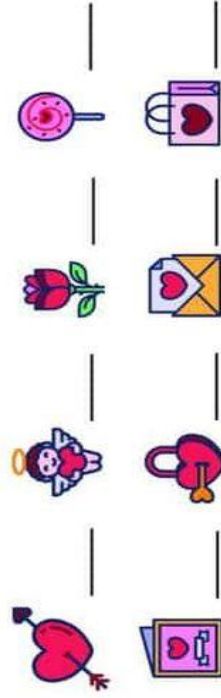
# LOVE EACH OTHER



John 13:34: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you."



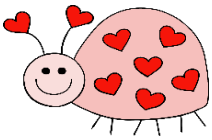




HOME FAITH FAMILY

# I SPY VALENTINES DAY



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# FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"> <p style="font-family: cursive;">Let your love for life, your love for others and especially your love for <b>God</b> shine in everything you do.</p> </div>						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<p>Missions Offering</p> <p><b>Groundhog Day!</b></p> 		<p>Men's Group 5:30 am</p> <p>Evening Ladies 7 pm</p>	<p style="color: red;"><b>Awana</b></p> <p style="color: green;">6-6:30pm meal</p> <p style="color: blue;">6:30-8 pm program</p>			
			Arnie & Nel Warntjes (43)	Myles Schafer		Colin Bolkema
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pastor Doug Van Aartsen</b></p> <p style="font-size: small;">Hudson Hofmeyer Ashtyn Mouw</p>		<p>Men's Group 5:30 am</p> <p>Evening Ladies 7 pm</p> <p>Elders' Mtg 6:30 pm</p> <p>Deacons' Mtg 7 pm</p> <p>Consistory 8 pm</p>	<p style="color: red;"><b>Awana</b></p> <p style="color: green;">6-6:30pm meal</p> <p style="color: blue;">6:30-8 pm program</p>		<p><b>Happy Valentine's Day!</b></p> 	
	Konner Maassen		Steve Kleinwolterink		Mary Van Es	Clayton Starkenburg
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<p><b>Building &amp; Repair Offering</b></p>	<p><b>Happy President's Day!</b></p> <p>Innergrow news due!</p>	<p>Men's Group 5:30 am</p> <p>Evening Ladies 7 pm</p>	<p style="color: red;"><b>Awana</b></p> <p style="color: green;">6-6:30pm meal</p> <p style="color: blue;">6:30-8 pm program</p>			
		Mavrick Schmith		Lori Bolkema Jeremy Maassen		Lily Huls Nichole Olson Hunter Warntjes
23	24	25	26	27	28	
<p><b>Rev. Dr. John Hartog III</b></p>		<p>Men's Group 5:30 am</p> <p>Evening Ladies 7 pm</p>	<p style="color: red;"><b>Awana</b></p> <p style="color: green;">6-6:30pm meal</p> <p style="color: blue;">6:30-8 pm program</p>			
		Roger & Shayla Schmith (2)				