

INNERGLOW

First Reformed Church Boyden, IA

LaVonne Sietstra & Teresa Harms, Editors

A PRAYER FOR OUR STUDENTS

DEAR GOD,
THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF
EDUCATION IN EVERY FORM.
AS OUR CHILDREN PREPARE TO START A NEW YEAR
MAY CONFIDENCE BE THEIR FOUNDATION,
MAY GRACE BE THEIR GUIDE AND
MAY HOPE BE THEIR COMPASS TOWARD A BRIGHT FUTURE.
I PRAY THEY WOULD HAVE EYES TO SEE
THE NEEDS OF THOSE AROUND THEM
AND A HEART TO LOVE WELL.
MAY THEY FACE EACH DAY WITH POSITIVITY
KNOWING THAT NO MATTER
WHAT COMES THEIR WAY,
THEY DO NOT HAVE TO FACE IT ALONE.
AMEN

August 2026



Greetings from your favorite church secretary! August is Back-to-School time! We're also gearing up for our next season of Awana! When you go shopping, most stores have their school supplies front and center for easy access. Ready or not!!!! This month's article focuses on kids and children's ministry. Enjoy! Teresa

Why do we need children's ministry in the church?

We need children's ministry because kids matter to God! Jesus made it quite clear that children-ALL children-matter to God. He values them not only for what they will become in the future but for who they are today. Jesus even recommended to His grown-up self-important disciples that to understand God's kingdom, they needed to observe, learn from, and imitate young children. Check out Mark 10:13-16.

We need children's ministry because children need to learn about God. We all agree that children need to learn about God. That's the stated purpose of children's ministry! However, for children to learn about God effectively, they may not necessarily need more info or newer programs. The most effective way for any child to learn about God is through example. The attitudes and actions of a person who is willing to live as an example for him or her is important. For every child – from an infant to the oldest child in your ministry – relationship matters. A relationship with a living, breathing Christian who cares about him or her is the cornerstone of learning about God. This is a reason spiritual formation in your volunteers is so important. Even in the best children's ministries, there may be an unspoken agreement that the main purpose of a children's program is to keep children happy and quiet. And, likely to keep them far from the adults so that "adults can do the truly important things" like worship and have Bible study. Sigh. But this view of both children and ministry to them yields a viewpoint of managing through entertainment ("As long as they're having fun!") or pacification ("At least they're quiet!") With this mindset a session is considered successful if no one got hurt and the kids went away reasonably happy. This is childcare, not children's ministry. The mindset we need is to ask God to help us see each child as an individual with whom to build a relationship. As we take time to build loving relationships, children come to see, hear, and experience how the love of Jesus looks, sounds and behaves. We need to truly hear, see, and love each child with the purpose of building a relationship that shows that child who Jesus is, while teaching them the Word of God.

We need children's ministry because it's Biblical. Consider these words from Psalms: "We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done." (Psalm 78:4) When we give our utmost attention and best effort to children's ministry, we are fulfilling this vision set forth in the Bible for teaching the faith.

We need children's ministry because it provides for the future. Imagine your church's future if adults would commit themselves to fostering the spiritual growth and well-being of the children in your congregation. The future is as bright as God's power and as sure as His promises. To most effectively create real change for the Kingdom of God, children are the ones with whom to begin.

We need children's ministry because it's the best investment we can make. Research has shown that for children, there is the largest probability that a person will embrace Jesus as his or her Savior. And the percentage drops off dramatically thereafter. So, in terms of financial and time investment, children's ministry creates the highest spiritual yield of any age group! The lifetime impact of children's ministry is immeasurable!

A strong children's program grows a church from the outside, bringing in new families who did not previously attend church. The majority of families who become part of the church connected mainly because of the way their children were loved and cared for by the leaders in children's ministry.

When asked, most everyone in church agrees that children and their relationship with Jesus is, or should be, the most important aspect of the church's ministry. But yet, only a small number of people volunteer in children's ministry. It is so much easier to come up with an excuse why you aren't going to serve (I'm too old, I already served 'my time', someone else will do it, etc, etc, etc).

For those who serve, stay encouraged. Your ministry to children is saving hearts and lives for Jesus. Keep up the Kingdom work and stay encouraged in Him!

Praise & Thanks for...

- *the healing and recovery for Elias Schmith**
- *living in a free country to worship & praise God and partake in Holy Communion to remember Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross**
- *those who participated in the Heart & Soles mission and the socks & shoes purchased for kids in need**
- *sunshine & rain for crops and lawns**
- *protection from storms**
- *God's steadfast love and mercy**
- *a safe & refreshing summer break for faculty, staff and students of area schools**
- *those who volunteer for children's ministry**
- *the Awana program in Boyden – a way for everyone to fulfill the call from Jesus to "teach the next generation"**
- *a cold drink of water on a hot summer day**
- *missions that help those who may struggle with getting school supplies for their kids – Love INC, Mid-Sioux Opportunity, etc**
- *everyone who helped out at Family Fun Night in the park**

let everything
THAT HAS BREATH
PRAISE
the **LORD**
PSALM 150:6

Pray for...

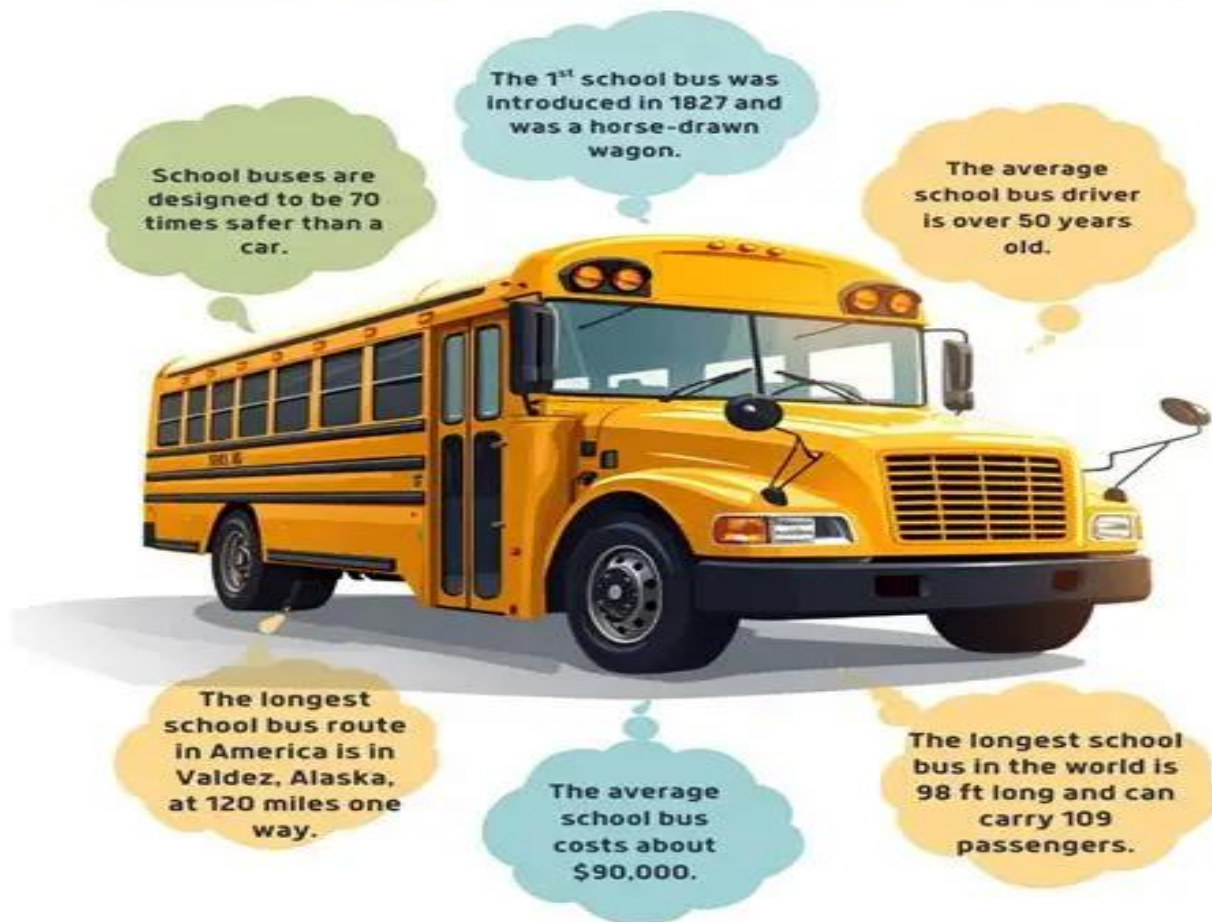
- *Boyden VBS at St. John's Church for a blessing-filled week!**
- *the Boyden Awana program and the other ministries that were blessed by Family Fun Night – LifeWise and VBS**
- *all staff, teachers and children who will be going back to school this month, including those who make the meals, keep the school clean, drive the buses, office workers and everyone who helps make school run smoothly**
- *administration and board members to seek God's guidance making decisions in all areas of school**
- *peace for families in conflict**
- *our spouses and children**
- *healing and recovery for those having procedures done, healing from surgeries, treatments and those with on-going health issues**
- *those serving our community in law enforcement, emergency services and fire departments**
- *those who serve in the armed forces and their families affected by their deployment – make there be peace in the world**
- *those who see themselves as broken, struggling, unable to find joy in their daily lives – may they see themselves as Jesus sees them**



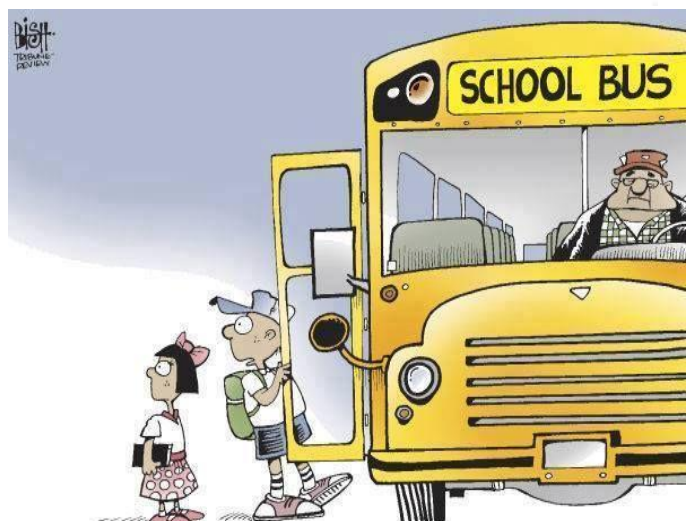
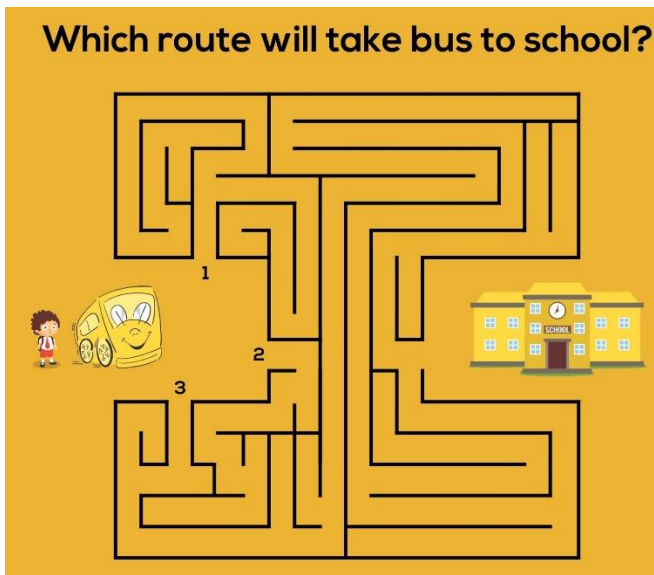
SUNSHINE FOR THE MONTH:

Answers to last month's US map – 1 Wash. 2 Idaho 3 Mont. 4 N Dak. 5 Minn. 6 Wisc. 7 Mich. 8 N. York 9 Verm. 10 N Hamp. 11 Maine 12 Oreg. 13 Wyo. 14 S Dak. 15 Nebr. 16 Iowa 17 Illin. 18 Ind. 19 Ohio 20 Penn. 21 N Jers. 22 Conn. 23 Rhode Isl. 24 Mass. 25 Cali. 26 Nev. 27 Utah 28 Colo. 29 Kans. 30 Missouri 31 Kent. 32 W Virg. 33 Virg. 34 Mary. 35 Dela. 36 Ariz. 37 N Mex. 38 Texas 39 Okla. 40 Ark. 41 Tenn. 42 N Caro. 43 Louis. 44 Mississ. 45 Ala. 46 Geor. 47 S Caro. 48 Flo. 49 Alaska 50 Hawaii

School Bus Fun Facts!



Which route will take bus to school?



I NEVER KNEW THAT MOM COULD DO CARTWHEELS

HYMN OF THE MONTH:

"AT CALVARY"

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

When Dr. R.A. Torrey was president of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, he received a letter from a distressed father. The man, a pastor, had a prodigal son named Bill who was breaking his heart. Would Dr. Torrey let the boy enroll at Moody? Dr. Torrey replied that while he sympathized with the man, it wasn't possible to admit the boy. Moody was a Bible school, not a reformatory. The man wrote back, doubling his entreaties. Finally Dr. Torrey agreed, provided the boy meet with him daily and abide by the rules.

The arrangement didn't go well at first, and Dr. Torrey thought the experiment was hopeless. The boy had serious problems and seemed torn apart by turbulence. But he did keep the rules, and day by day he ventilated his frustrations to Dr. Torrey and - as it turned out - was more attentive to Torrey's answers than it appeared.

To make a long story short, several years later that boy, William R. Newell, himself, was a beloved professor at Moody Bible Institute.

In 1895, William began thinking of putting his testimony into verse form. The idea rolled around in the back of his mind for several weeks, then one day on his way to lecture, the lines came to him. Ducking into an empty classroom, he jotted down the words on the back of an envelope. As he hurried on to class, he happened to meet Dr. Daniel Towner, director of music at the Institute. Handing him the verses, William gently suggested they could use a good melody. By the time Dr. Newell finished his lecture, the completed tune was ready.

"Bill," said Dr. Towner, "I was so taken with the poem you gave me that I went immediately to my studio and composed a tune. I feel that it could be the best song that either of us will ever write in our lifetime."

The two men sang it together, and it was published shortly after.

Bill Newell went on to become a well-known Bible teacher throughout the Midwest and the author of a popular series of Bible commentaries. He once said that had he not gone through his troubled years, he might never have fully understood the importance of Calvary's grace

*Mercy there was great, and grace was free;
Pardon there was multiplied to me;
There my burdened soul found liberty at Calvary.*

***"Every kid needs someone on their side to
prove to them that God is on their side."***

Reggie Joiner

At Calvary

1. Years I spent in van - i - ty and pride, car - ing not my Lord was
 2. By God's Word at last my sin I learned; then I trem-bled at the
 3. Now I've given to Je - sus ev - ery - thing, now I glad - ly own Him
 4. Oh, the love that drew sal - va - tion's plan! Oh, the grace that brought it

cru - ci - fied, know-ing not it was for me He died on Cal - va - ry.
 law I'd spurned, till my guilt - y soul im - plor-ing turned to Cal - va - ry.
 as my King, now my rap-tured soul can on - ly sing of Cal - va - ry.
 down to man! Oh, the might - y gulf that God did span at Cal - va - ry.

Mer - cy there was great, and grace was free; par - don there was mul - ti -

plied to me; there my bur-dened soul found lib - er - ty at Cal - va - ry.

In Years Gone By ...

50 YEARS AGO – August 1976

A farewell fellowship was held for the student pastor and his family, Mr & Mrs Keith Pals.

The Elders shared the need for people to be more welcoming to guests and each other. Ideas of how to extend warmth and love to others were shared and called for. (This sounds familiar, huh!)

Congratulations were extended to Mr & Mrs John De Groot on the birth of their son and to Norman Veen for profession of his faith.

An open house was held for the 25th wedding anniversary of Mr & Mrs Glenn Salmon.

Sympathy wishes were extended to the family and friends of Mrs. Herman Schroeder.

25 YEARS AGO – August 2001

Congratulations were extended to Wayne & Sharon Vander Schaaf for their 40th wedding anniversary.

A call for volunteers was extended to teach Sunday School for the combined classes of 5th/6th and 7th/8th.

A women's salad supper and program, "The Little Red Hen", was held.

10 YEARS AGO – August 2016

The Sacrament of Baptism was held for JoHanne Rae Starkenburg, daughter of Chris & Holly.

A call for volunteers was extended to serve in Awana and/or as regular and substitute Sunday School teachers.

5 YEARS AGO – August 2021

Congratulations were extended to the Reiser family for the birth of Harper Rose!

An Awana Fun Night was held in Centennial Park to gear up for the fall.

Memories
THE MOMENTS THAT TELL OUR STORY
Wild Eyes
WILDEYEDESIGNS.COM



Dates:

August 3-6 2026

Location:

Camp Counselors from Ingham Okoboji will be ready to spread his name!

Time:

**12:30-5pm
Closing Program 5:30 on
Thursday the 6th**

St John Lutheran Church - All are welcome!

Other Details:

**Join us!!
BOYDEN
VBS**

Sign up : rodmarci@yahoo.com

4 years old Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

5 years old thru 6th grade Monday- Thursday

Please include Name of Child, school year completed, phone number , email address Sign up by June 15th

HAPPINESS IS ...



Wasn't it Smart of God to ...

- ... make ants so they don't sleep. (That's our only revenge!)
- ... lead us to discover the wheel. (Otherwise there would be a lot of cars on blocks.)
- ... give us fire to use for warmth, energy, manufacturing, and marshmallows.
- ... make rain fall in lots of little drops instead of one really big one.
- ... make babies so adorable that we don't really mind cleaning up the unbelievable messes they can make.
- ... make the healthiest foods the most colorful and delightful to our eyes.



Happiness is ...

being able to attend the Quilts of Valor presentation for my dad, Gerald Harms, and my uncle, Tom Salmon. It was a very moving experience!

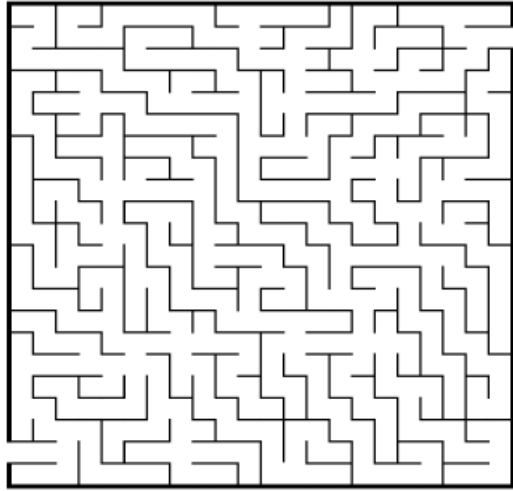


AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
2 Mission Offering	3 	4 Men's Group 5:30 am VBS Casey Mouw Elaine Ver Meer	5 VBS	6 VBS John Beek	7 Dawson Olson	8 
9	10 Informational Congregation Mtg 7:00 PM	11 Men's Group 5:30 am Elders/Deacons Mtg Consistory Harper Reiser	12	13 	14 Shari Fedders Brent & Shari Fedders (33)	15
16 Building & Repair Offering	17 Ken & Jeri Hoogendoorn (47)	18 Men's Group 5:30 am	19 Awana Leaders Mtg 6 pm 	20 Jack Slykhuis	21	22 Heath & Robbie Warntjes (39)
23 Pastor Doug Van Aartsen Kayla Rosenboom	24 Innerglow News due! Boyden-Hull 1st Day of School!	25 Men's Group 5:30 am	26	27 	28	29 
30 Communion Holly Starkenburg Julia Vanden Bosch	31 Josh & Barb Hoekstra (24)					

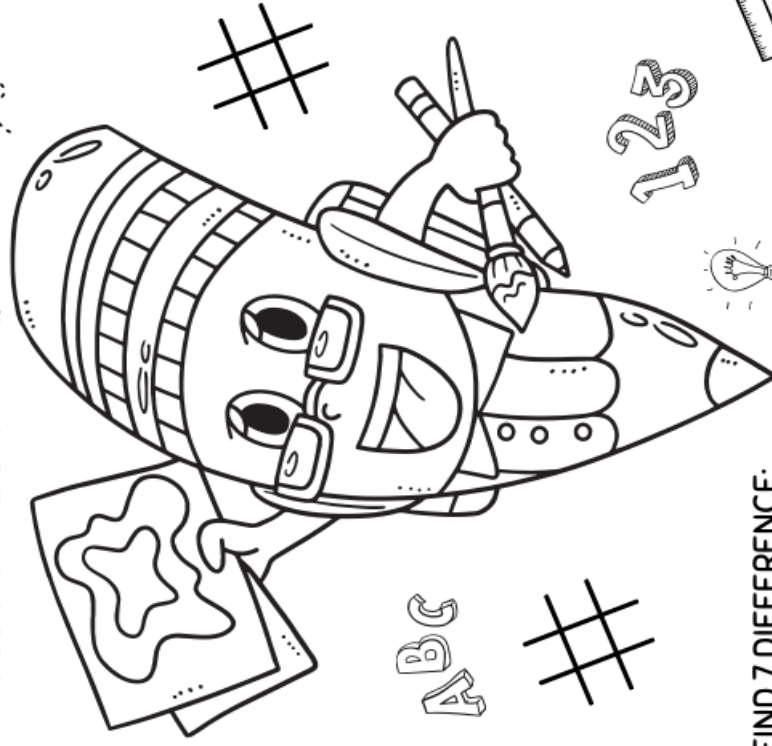


BACK TO SCHOOL



HELP THE BUTTERFLY

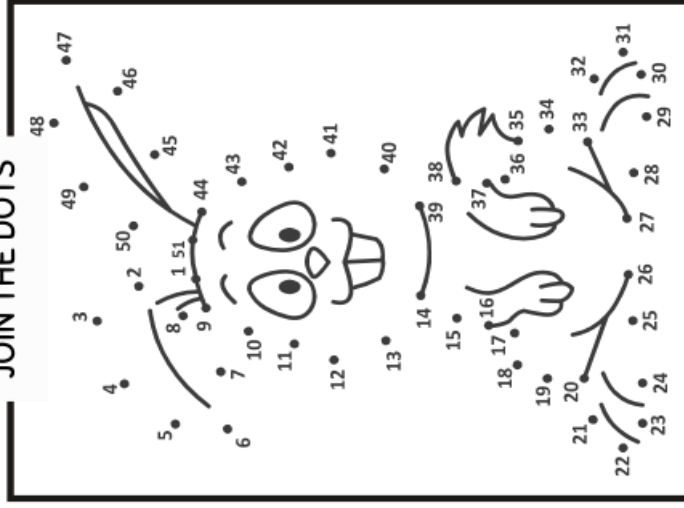
COLOR THE DRAWING



A B C

1 2 3

JOIN THE DOTS

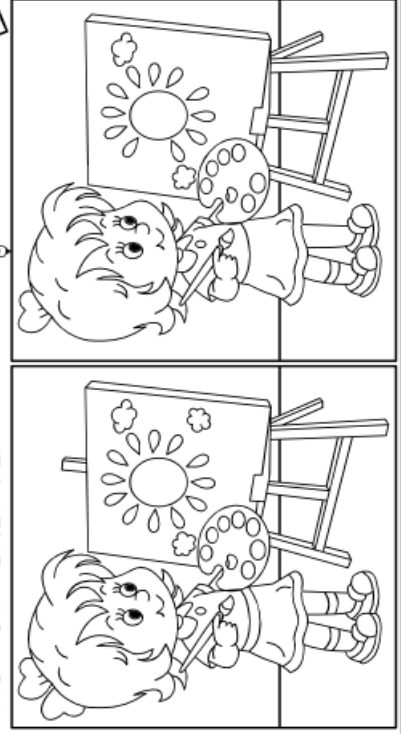


MumEducates

DRAW THE OTHER HALF



FIND 7 DIFFERENCE:



WRITE THE MIDDLE SOUND
OF EACH PICTURE.



	p - g		d - g
	b - s		b - d
	m - p		b - g
	f - x		a - t
	l - g		f - n