

# Chimes Newsletter



## USHERS

Head Usher: Leon King, Butch & Faythe Amberg,  
Troy Amberg, Mark Oja, Dave Danielson,  
Rick Kramer & Jerilyn Kodet,  
Ryan, Lindsey & Knox Kramer

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## COMMUNION SERVERS

Ruling Elder Dave Danielson  
Leon King, Adrienne Danielson , Tony Miller,  
Bob & Sonya Alexander, Dan Alexander


235 E 4th Street  
Redwood Falls, MN 56283  
507-627-8751

Pastor: Rev. Scott Prouty  
scott\_prouty@hotmail.com  
Church Office: churchofc@hotmail.com  
Church Website: fpcrwf.org

## Deacon Update

The Deacons will be taking over the card shelf that used to be handled by the Outreach Committee.

WORSHIP: 10:15 AM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9 AM  
CHOIR: 9:15 AM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Food Shelf Open House	2 Pastor Helps SEI Buck Euchre Tournament
3 S School/Choir  Worship-HC  Wk Food Bags- Mammen	4 Pastor has Reflective Pastoral Supervision Zoom Meeting  Pastor has Lenten Sermon Preparation Zoom Meeting  Pastor has Meeting with Renville Pastor in Olivia	5 Pastor Visits  Committee Meetings	6 Old Testament Bible Study  Piecemakers  Apocrypha Bible Study  Confirmation- Danielson	7 Pastor has Leadership Meeting  Pastor Visits	8 Pastor and Pam do KLGR Oscar Morning Show	9
10 S School/Choir  Worship	11 Pastor has Lenten Sermon Preperation Zoom Meeting  Pastor has Rotary Meeting  Session Meeting	12 Pastor has All Day LINC Meeting	13 Old Testament Bible Study  Apocrypha Bible Study  Confirmation- Danielson	14 Pastor Visits  Pastor has Dollars for Scholars Meeting  Deacon Meeting	15	16
17 S School/Choir  Worship  Wk Food Bags- Stephens	18 Pastor has Reflective Pastoral Supervision Zoom  Pastor has Synod Steering Zoom Meeting	19 Pastor has General Assembly Zoom Meeting  Ruby's Pantry	20 Old Testament Bible Study  Piecemakers  Apocrypha Bible Study  Confirmation- Hicks	21 Pastor Visits	22	23

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 <b>Palm Sunday</b> S School/Choir Worship	25 Pastor has Reflective Pastoral Supervision Zoom  Pastor has Rotary Board Meeting  Pastor has Rotary Meeting	26 Pastor has All Day LINC Meeting	27 Old Testament Bible Study  Apocrypha Bible Study  No Confirmation Class	28 Maundy Thursday Service HERE @ 7 pm	29 Community Good Friday Service HERE @ 12:05 pm	30
31 <b>Easter Sunday</b> Worship Wk Food Bags- Palmer	<b>April 1-7 Pastor Scott is taking a week of vacation.</b>					

## Pastor's Visitation Schedule

### March

#### March 5 Pastor Scott Visits:

Bob & Bunny Notling at 2:00 pm  
 Sally Dording at 3:00 pm  
 Todd & Kathy Peterson at 4:00 pm

#### March 7 Pastor Scott Visits:

Leon King at 2:00 pm  
 Lee & Diane Davis at 3:30 pm

#### March 14 Pastor Scott Visits:

Ralph Revier at 9:00 am  
 Doreen Steenblock at 10:00 am  
 JoAnn Kotval at 11:00 am  
 Sue Tiffany at 4:00 pm

#### March 21 Pastor Scott Visits:

Rosemary Bennett at 9:30 am  
 Wayne Mann at 11:00 am  
 Merlin Goudy at Noon  
 Jenifer Hindt at 1:30 pm  
 Scott & Joyce Goodyear at 3:30 pm

**Review & Confirm** your visit with the church office.

### April

#### March 11 Pastor Scott Visits:

Rick Hauge at 9:00 am  
 Doreen Steenblock at 10:00 am  
 Ralph Revier at 11:00 am  
 Sally Dording at 2:00 pm  
 Sue Tiffany at 3:00 pm  
 Bob & Bunny Nolting at 4:00 pm

#### March 23 Pastor Scott Visits:

Rosemary Bennett at 9:30 am  
 Jenifer Hindt at 11:00 am  
 Dan Tiffany at 2:00 pm  
 Scott & Joyce Goodyear at 3:30 pm

### 2024 PER-CAPITA

GENERAL ASSEMBLY: \$9.80

SYOD: \$5.50

PRESBYTERY: \$29.70

TOTAL: \$45.00/PER MEMBER

## GREETERS

Deacon of Month:  
 Adrienne Danielson

3/3: Ralph Revier  
 3/10: Nick & Katherine Brozek  
 3/17: Matt & Kimary Tiffany  
 3/24: Rick Hauge  
 3/31: Nancy Miller



Larry Kramer was born October 12, 1940 to Arthur and Antonia (Butenhoff) Kramer in Flora Township, Renville County, Minnesota. He grew up on a farm in rural Renville County near Olivia. He lived in Redwood County near Delhi in his adult years. During his marriage to Sharon Volkman in 1959, he had ten children. In the end, they divorced. On March 30, 1991, Larry was united in marriage to Kerry Bjorndahl and with this union, he gained a stepson. Throughout his life, Larry always had to be on the move doing something; whether it was getting up early to check on his livestock or late nights in the field. He was passionate about his farm and horses. When he wasn't messing around with something on the farm, Larry was traveling. He loved going to Puerto Rico the most and his tan was a year-round affair. His passion carried over to many things in his life but most importantly he cared for his loved ones. When you were in his presence, Larry would give you his full attention and time. Visiting with family and friends were a joy in his life. Even better yet if he could be riding horses and catching up with loved ones. That was a great day for Larry!

Larry passed away on February 19, at the age of 83. His funeral was held on Saturday, February 24.

Larry is survived by his dear wife Kerry (Bjorndahl) Kramer; kids: Meri Jo Gillund, Dale Kramer, Brenda (Joel) Kerkhoff, Ricky (Jerilyn) Kramer, Jeanne (Rob) Palmer, Bonnie (Mike Pettis) Vik, Deb (Greg) Jansen, Carole (Mike) Quigley, Jennifer (Bruce) Bestland, Peggy (Jamie) Spencer & Jeremy (Shannon) Gilland; 24 grandchildren; 33 great grandchildren; sister Phyllis Tiegs; and many friends and other relatives.

Larry is preceded in death by his parents, 2 sisters, 3 brothers, son-in-law Jeff Gillund, and 3 grandsons: Chad Kramer, Nathan Kramer and JJ Spencer.



# • HAPPY BIRTHDAY •

- 1st: Logan Moore,  
Jacob Gertsema,  
Sydney Gertsema, Kaden Hicks
  - 2nd: Diedra Zasko
  - 3rd: Alex Tiffany,  
Stephanie Klavetter,  
Denise Kaupang
  - 7th: Matthew Prouty,  
Sally Dording
  - 8th: Kim Becklund
  - 9th: Becky Bruns,  
Doreen Steenblock
  - 10th: Rachel Karnitz
  - 11th: Stephen Dording,  
Pam Iverson, Ryan Rohlik
  - 13th: Amber Rohlik,  
Jackson Plotz, Rhys Meyers
  - 14th: Dan Kohler,  
Courtney Siegfried
  - 15th: Tara Steinkrans,  
Fred Bloedow, TJ Juell,  
Fran Hauge
  - 16th: Ella Fuhr, Stacie Hicks,  
Derek VanderLinden
  - 21st: Beau Stough
  - 22nd: Jonathan Sweetman
  - 24th: Aubrie Milhausen
  - 25th: Simon Danielson
  - 27th: Brenda Becklund
- Happy Anniversary*
- 19th: Jenny & Mark Jansen
  - 22nd: Kyle & Stacie Hicks  
Don & Lori Quinn

Hello,

I am writing to you today in the hopes that you can help me spread the word to help recruit volunteers for CentraCare Redwood.

We currently have a need for volunteers at the hospital volunteer desk and in the surgery department. Volunteers at the hospital/clinic offer a friendly face and assist patients with wheelchairs, offer directions to waiting areas and assist staff in a variety of tasks.

I appreciate your efforts and consideration.

With sincere regards,  
Sharon Fromm | Program  
Specialist -Volunteer Services  
P: 507-637-4579  
Sharon.fromm@centracare.com



It only takes a couple of hours per week to make a difference. Our volunteers share their gifts and talents to support patients and families.

#### Make a difference by:

- Welcoming patients and visitors
- Answering simple questions
- Assisting patients to waiting areas
- Flexible options for your busy schedule

#### Opportunities in your area

CentraCare - Redwood is seeking volunteers of all backgrounds who have a genuine desire for helping others. Volunteer positions currently available include the Volunteer Desk and the Surgery area.

If you are inspired to give back, talk to a volunteer specialist today. We will help you find the right opportunity.

Contact us at 507-637-4579  
CentraCare - Redwood Volunteer Services

## How Can the Glorious Day of Easter Increase Our Faith?

As Christians around the world prepare to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday, many contemplate the significance of this momentous occasion and how it can deepen their faith. The resurrection lies at the core of Christian belief, serving as a beacon of hope and assurance for believers. Here are several ways in which the glorious day of Easter can foster spiritual growth and strengthen one's faith:

- *Confirmation of God's Promises: Easter reaffirms the promises of God as revealed in the Scriptures. The resurrection of Jesus fulfills the prophecies foretold centuries earlier, demonstrating God's faithfulness and sovereignty over all things. Reflecting on these promises can bolster one's trust in God's plan for salvation and his continued presence in our lives.*
- *Victory Over Death: The resurrection stands as a triumphant victory over death and sin. Through his resurrection, Jesus conquered the grave, offering believers the assurance of eternal life. This victory not only assures us of life beyond the physical realm but also empowers us to live boldly and fearlessly in the present, knowing that death has been defeated.*
- *Renewed Hope: Easter symbolizes new beginnings and the promise of renewal. Just as Jesus emerged from the tomb, we too can experience spiritual rebirth and transformation in our lives. The resurrection instills hope in the midst of despair, reminding us that God can bring beauty out of ashes and turn mourning into joy.*
- *Forgiveness and Redemption: The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and his subsequent resurrection paved the way for forgiveness and redemption. Easter serves as a reminder of God's unfathomable love for humanity, offering salvation to all who believe in him. Through Christ's resurrection, we are reconciled to God and granted the opportunity to experience true freedom and restoration.*
- *Empowerment Through the Holy Spirit: The resurrection inaugurated the age of the Holy Spirit, who empowers believers to live out their faith boldly and authentically. Easter marks the beginning of a new era characterized by the indwelling presence of God's Spirit, who guides, comforts, and empowers believers in their spiritual journey.*
- *Communal Celebration and Fellowship: Easter is a time for believers to come together in worship and celebration. As we gather with fellow Christians to commemorate the resurrection, we are reminded of the communal nature of our faith and the importance of fellowship in nurturing and strengthening our spiritual lives.*

In conclusion, the glorious day of Easter holds profound significance for Christians worldwide, offering a renewed sense of hope, assurance, and spiritual vitality. By reflecting on the profound implications of Christ's resurrection, believers can deepen their faith and experience the transformative power of God's love in their lives.

**Join us during Holy Week for our Maundy Thursday Service on March 28th at 7:00 p.m.,  
the Community Good Friday Service at our church on March 29th at 12:05 p.m.  
and our Easter Sunday Service on March 31st at 10:15 a.m. Have a blessed Easter!**

**In Christ's love,  
Pastor Scott Prouty**

## **The Session Wants to Share and an Important Message from Pastor Bryant**

*(Used with permission from Pastor Bryant Kaden, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church)*

Random thoughts from Pastor Bryant: I mentioned in a previous post that we held our annual meeting for the congregation on Sunday, and I meant what I said: I feel incredibly called, supported, and loved as a pastor at Gloria Dei and in Redwood Falls, and for that I'm grateful. I'm grateful because I know that's not the experience of every pastor. Let's also just be honest and say that we're not always the best at having conversations about budgets and money in general, but especially in the church. Add to it the fact that the pastor is in a meeting where everyone decides how much they'll be paid for the coming year, and it can be a little awkward, even in the best of circumstances.

I know the stereotypical complaint about stewardship is that "the church is always asking for money." The truth of the matter is, the church is one place where, while yes, we must ask for donations, we never demand money in exchange for services. Everyone can come and receive the ministry of the church free of charge, no questions asked. That includes access to pastoral care. You want your kid baptized? Sure! You want them educated about their faith? We'll do that, too! You want to receive Communion? Come on in! You can't come to us? We'll visit you where you are! You need some prayer? Someone to just listen? We're always available, even on our days off and weekends. (What's a weekend? And yes, I know pastors need to keep healthy boundaries about time off, but that's usually on us to maintain those boundaries, which is work in and of itself.) Nearly every pastor I know has stories of mealtimes cut short, days off that are anything but relaxing, and even vacations that are interrupted by unexpected pastoral emergencies. In a world where getting an appointment for anything is a challenge these days, I don't know many pastors who won't respond to a request for a visit or conversation, if not immediately, at least within a few hours. And if they're not available in that way, you can bet that they will probably hear about it from someone.

Most people don't see the totality of this because their interactions with their pastor in this way are occasional and sporadic. It may be that many of you don't need to talk to us for weeks or months or years, but from our perspective, there is an unmistakable expectation that we will know about and, at a minimum, be praying about important things happening in the lives of hundreds of people at the same time. And all of this is done without ever demanding payment before we will do any of it. We would consider it offensive to even think about charging a fee for these things. Not to mention, what I've just described is probably the "bare minimum" of pastoral care in a congregation. It doesn't include the work we do helping plan worship, writing sermons, teaching classes and Bible studies, leading meetings, planning funerals and weddings, being engaged in continuing education, supporting the wider synod and churchwide organizations by serving on even more committees and boards, involvement with a local ministerial association, and being publicly present at community events. Most pastors I know are working an average of 50-60 hours per week. There are times when that number can swell to 70 or 80 or more hours, depending on the season and needs of the church. There's no overtime, no bonuses, no incentives for this extra work. There's also no finish line. Our reward for doing it well is getting to do more of it. At best, we can hope to receive a heartfelt thank you and feel like what we've done actually mattered to someone.

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Having said all of that, we're not doing this job to get rich, and the goal of the church is certainly not to make and hoard money. At the same time, pastors are people, many with families, with very real needs. On top of the pressure of the job, it's awkward to know that people are inevitably scrutinizing your financial situation. Just how much money should a pastor have? How nice of a car should they drive? How big of a house should they live in? What kind of vacations should they take? How nicely should they dress? How many model trains are too many? (Don't answer that one, please.) None of us want to be categorized with people like Joel Osteen and Creflo Dollar who are clearly and obviously using their platform to enrich themselves beyond most of our imaginations. Most of us who are pastors do this work because we are truly called to it. We do it because we care about people, our communities, the world, and making a positive impact through our work. At the same time, like everyone else, we want to live and be able to provide for our families without financial worries hindering our wellness and effectiveness as people and pastors. Again, even in the best of circumstances, it's complicated. At its worst, you have a person literally working themselves to death in a cauldron of stress and anxiety while being paid less than a living wage.

I'm not saying all of this to complain or to make it sound like I'm unappreciated. That couldn't be farther from the truth in my situation! I'm trying, in some small way, to advocate for those among my colleagues who are clearly overworked and underappreciated. The craziest thing to me about all of this is that, while we're experiencing a shortage of pastors, especially in rural areas, the likes of which we haven't seen for decades, many congregations seem intent on continuing to treat their pastor poorly, considering them completely expendable, paying them as little as possible, while also expecting that there are just going to continue to be people "called" to this kind of abuse. It seems to me that this is exactly the wrong thing to do if you're trying to attract more people to an occupation. How many congregations or synods out there are offering "sign on bonuses" or incentives to encourage people to become pastors? If they are offering these things, how well are they being promoted to high school and college students? How many places are providing honest to goodness support to their pastors to make sure they're receiving what they need to be healthy and whole? My impression is that most places, including congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, are scrambling under immense pressure simply trying to survive, putting out fires of conflict, and plugging holes in the dam under the constant threat of total institutional collapse. Thriving in ministry? Is that even a realistic possibility? I think it could be if we actually invest in attracting the kind of people who will make a difference and setting them up to succeed instead of funneling them into the least desirable calls where they'll be chewed up and spit out in just a few years. There is no doubt that pastors should be held to a high standard of professionalism and commitment to the church. All I'm asking in return is that the church show a similar kind of commitment to their pastors. Otherwise, it's easy to see that we're not going to turn around this pastoral shortage any time soon.

Anyway, if you got this far, this was kind of a downer of a post. I didn't mean it to be. I love being a pastor. Most pastors I know are incredibly talented and passionate people who do this work for all the right reasons. I just want to see them be able to survive and thrive in life, not only because there is a symbiotic relationship between healthy pastors and healthy congregations, but simply because they are people I care about. Join me in praying for pastors and advocating for better treatment and fair compensation for all of them during this season of annual meetings.

Finally, I have to conclude by saying that I absolutely know pastors aren't the only people experiencing this kind of thing (I'm looking at you, especially, teachers, nurses, and others in "helping professions"). After our annual meeting, one person came up to me and said, "Pastor, I could never pay you enough." It was a touching sentiment, and a positive encouragement I'll hold on to for a long time to come. I feel the same way about so many people in our community who I know work for less than what they deserve. Just like me, they're not in it for the money. And while we can never pay them enough, we should try.