first reformed church
ORANGE CITY, IA

themilestone

SUMMER 2025

The Raus

Answering God's Call to the Nations

On Sunday, August 17, our church family gathered for a sacred milestone, the commissioning of the Rau family to the mission field. What began as a prayerful longing to see the unreached know Christ has now become reality. The Raus have spent the past year walking with a Prayer and Care Team, preparing their hearts, and seeking God's direction. We have witnessed their journey of surrender, courage, and obedience as they follow Christ's words in Matthew 10:39: *"He that loses his life for my sake shall find it."*

Their sending is not just about one family. It is an extension of our whole church. Through prayer, encouragement, and support, we all share in the mission of taking the gospel to places where Christ's name has never been proclaimed. The Raus will serve in Western Asia, beginning with language learning, cultural understanding, and biblical application, so they may bring the good news of Jesus to those who have yet to hear.

Part of this sending was made possible through the generosity of our congregation and community. During RAGBRAI, our church came together in extraordinary ways—cooking, serving, and opening our doors to thousands. It was a living picture of the church in Acts: giving time, talents, and possessions in Christ's name. Through that effort, and the love of so many, the Raus' fundraiser raised approximately $15,750.

As we commission the Raus, let us continue to stand with them. This is holy ground—our church's prayers, resources, and faith joining in God's mission to the world.

WELCOME New Faces

Don & Sherri Bruxvoort

Riley Oetken

Ayden & Addison Klein

Casey, Sarah & Rose Guthmiller

Korbyn, Amber & Graesyn Gramstad

Rod & Pat Muilenburg

Brian Sterk

Greg & Chloe Will

Welcome **LITTLE ONES**

Asher

Born: May 12, 2025
Parents: Jack & Julia Vander Stelt

Graesyn

Born: June 19, 2025
Parents: Amber & Korbyn Gramstad

Audrey & Edyn

Born: June 20, 2025
Parents: Matt & Rachel Honken

Children

VBS 2025: Live It Out!

This July, the *Very Best Summer* (VBS) came alive at FRC with three days packed full of **worship, games, crafts, and stories** that inspired our kids to love like Jesus.

A Heartfelt Thank You

We are so grateful for the many volunteers who gave their time and energy to pour into our FRC kids. Your dedication made these three days unforgettable!

Living It Out Through Giving

Our VBS offering raised over **$2,500** for **Autumn's Center** in Spencer, supporting therapy and care for children and families going through challenging times. What a joy to see our kids put their faith into action!

Fun Doesn't Stop

VBS is more than a summer program—it's a place for kids to grow in faith, serve others, and experience the joy of community. We can't wait to do it all again next summer!

Meet the New Consistory Members

RIK DAHL - ELDER

How many terms have you served? This is my first term (I was an elder at a previous church).

Tell us about your Family: My wife, Amy Beth, and I have been married 30 years and are blessed with five children, four in-laws, and nine grandchildren. God has faithfully provided through every stage of life, from Iowa to Colorado and back again to our beloved Orange City.

What is your Life Verse? 2 Timothy 1:7 - It is always a comfort to know that Spirit that lives in me is one that can grant me discipline, confidence, and selflessness.

What is your earliest church memory? I didn't grow up in the church. As a new Christian in Orange City, my brother-in-law Todd Schmidt (married to Annie De Jong) told me to meet him in the "narthex" of FRC. Not knowing what that was, I told my wife he must mean the north exit. She and Todd had a good laugh at my naivety.

CHRIS JELKEN - DEACON

How many terms have you served? This is my first time serving as a deacon.

Tell us about your Family. My wife, Carsyn, and I joined FRC while at Northwestern and moved back to Orange City last September. I work in Advancement at Northwestern, and Carsyn is a clinic nurse at Sioux Center Health. We enjoy movie nights, walks with our dog Ace, and playing disc golf or pickleball.

What is your Life Verse? Psalm 86:11 - *Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.*

If you got to have one FRC Staff Member's job for a day, whose would you choose and why? Ross Enger! He is always leading our youth in fun games and meaningful adventures. I admire how he engages the kids and keeps youth group exciting.

KENT ANDERSON - DEACON

How many terms have you served? This is my first term. (I served 3 terms at a previous church.)
Tell us about your Family. Pam and I have been married 29 years and have two daughters, Autumn (17) and Lydia (15). We live in Orange City, next to Iowa State Bank. I'm the finance officer for the city, and Pam teaches music at MOC-FV Elementary.
What is your Life Verse? Ephesians 2:8 – *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith- and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.*
What is your potluck favorite dish? A chicken and dressing casserole.

DARIN PALS - DEACON

How many terms have you served? This is my first time serving at FRC.
Tell us about your Family: I've been married to Krista for 26 years, and we have two daughters: Tyra, a sophomore at Iowa State, and Dani, a senior at MOC-Floyd Valley. I work at CQ Medical and own Pals Cleaning Services, while Krista works for Paul Janssen. We live on an acreage north of Alton.
What is your Life Verse? Psalm 27:1 - *The Lord is my light and my salvation-whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life-of whom shall I be afraid?*
If you got to have one FRC staff member's job for a day, whose would choose and why? I would choose Pastor Mark Haverdink because I love visiting and meeting new people.

CLARK PENNINGS - ELDER

How many terms have you served? I've served two terms as a deacon. This is my third as an elder.
Tell us about your Family. I'm a VP at Iowa State Bank in OC, and my wife, Merilee, is the bookkeeper at FRC. We have two children: Meredith and her husband, Tim, live in Spirit Lake with their daughter, Thea (8). Tyler and Alex live in Sioux Falls with their son, Luka (2), and are expecting a baby girl in November. We are extremely blessed!
What is your Life Verse? Jeremiah 29:11
What is your earliest memory of FRC? In Preschool Sunday School, my mom asked the name of my teacher. I said 'Mrs. Washer,' but it was actually Mrs. Draayer. My mom reminded me of that often!

GALEN KLEINWOLTERINK - ELDER

How many terms have you served? This will be my first time on consistory so I feel like a rookie.
Tell us about your Family: I'm married to Laurie and we have 4 children. We're both retired so it's nice to be more flexible. We enjoy traveling and meeting new people.
What is your Life Verse? Philippians 4:4-7. It talks about praying instead of worrying.
What is your earliest church memory? When I was 5, I remember the janitor opening the tall stained-glass windows with a hooked pole since there was no air conditioning. About 20 years later, I was doing the exact same thing when I began working at the church.

Youth

Power Connection 2025: Best Life Ever

Power Connection was the highlight of our youth ministry summer, with more students attending than ever before—for the second year in a row. We served with a variety of **ministries around the Twin Cities**, but the most meaningful part was our **youth group time.**

We had **honest conversations** about faith, and in conjunction with some **powerful worship**, it really made an impact. We came home having learned a lot about **ourselves, others, and living faithfully.**

High School Fall Retreat: Being Built Together

Students in grades 9–12 are invited to join us for an unforgettable weekend at **Trout Lake Camp, November 7–9!** This fall retreat is the perfect chance to enjoy crisp northern air, colorful leaves, bonfires, and a break from the everyday—all while **growing in faith, building friendships, and having fun.**

The weekend includes **worship, powerful messages, outdoor adventures,** and classic camp activities like zip lining, high ropes, and late-night games. Visit frcoc.org/retreat to sign up.

Kingdom Network Missions Team

Empowering Churches to Fulfill the Great Commission—Together

As we move forward in alignment with the Kingdom Network, we are exploring how our network of churches can join forces to strengthen missional engagement: locally, nationally, and globally. A dedicated team is prayerfully seeking God's direction, blending biblical "missionology" with practical steps for impact.

Meeting 4–6 times a year, we come together to pray, learn, and collaborate—believing that we are stronger when we serve side-by-side.

Our Strategy

1. **Connect Passionate Mission Leaders** – Building relationships that inspire and strengthen.
2. **Share Best Practices** – Learning from one another to be more effective.
3. **Ignite Mission & Evangelistic Passion** – Encouraging hearts for the lost.
4. **Provide Strong Mission Partners** –
   - Theologically aligned
   - Committed to multiplying disciples, leaders, and churches
   - Offering "hands-on" opportunities for involvement
   - Identified partners include IPM in Manaus, Brazil, Guaymas, MX, Words of Hope, and Multiplication Network
5. **Equip & Train Leaders** – Giving mission leaders the tools to live out the Great Commission and Great Commandment together.

Our Team

- Dave Izenbart – Kingdom Network
- Bob Bouwer – Faith Church in Dyer, IN
- Rich Bawinkel – Kingdom Network
- Corrie Vos – Faith Church in Dyer, IN
- Markus Jeromin – Center Point in Kalamazoo, MI
- Sara Van Zee – First Reformed Church in Orange City, IA

Identified Mission Partners

IPM in Manaus, Brazil

The IPM is a large and active church in Manaus, Brazil, known for its extensive outreach ministries along the Amazon River and its tributaries.

Guaymas, MX Church Planting

God is raising up indigenous missionaries to plant churches and transform their communities in Guaymas, MX. Kingdom Network is coming alongside to help assist in these church plants.

Words of Hope

Words of Hope equips indigenous Christian leaders to share the hope of the gospel in the heart languages of unreached people.

Multiplication Network

The vision of Multiplication Network is to see a healthy church representing the Kingdom of God in every community. Its mission is to equip leaders with the tools to strengthen and multiply healthy churches.

Compton Reflections

Article by Sara Van Zee | June 4 - 11

One of the greatest indicators that the gospel has truly taken root in a culture is when it begins to break cycles and chains that have held generations captive. Compton is no different.

This summer was our first time bringing a team to Compton during the summer months—and our first time bringing a truly multi-generational group. Honestly, I wasn't sure how that would affect our "normal" way of serving. I even wondered if we would be able to accomplish all the tasks we had planned.

As the week unfolded, I noticed something different—more moments of relational play, more unhurried conversations. I wondered what the community at City Church thought about this shift. By the end of the week, my questions were answered. Several people approached me with tears in their eyes, sharing how deeply it moved them to see families serving side-by-side. They were encouraged to watch the younger team members take time to truly see the children of the community.

For those in Compton who are already working hard to break destructive cycles, witnessing faith lived out across generations was a powerful reminder that this journey can be passed on—and it gave them renewed hope for their own families.

What I initially saw as a possible weakness, God used to reveal His glory. He reminded us of His promise to work through generations. We're excited to create more opportunities for people of all ages to serve together and express the rich heritage of faith in action.

Learn more about our trip to Compton and hear interviews from those that went on the trip at frcoc.org/missions.

Upcoming Events

Ministry Kick-Off Night
Wednesday, August 27
Meal 5:15 - 6:30 PM
Kids 6:30 - 7:30 PM
Youth 7:30 - 8:30 PM

Sunday School Begins
Sunday, September 7
9:45 - 10:25 AM

First Steps Luncheon
Sunday, October 5
11:45 AM - 1:15 PM

Fall Serve Day
Wednesday, October 8
5:30 - 7:30 PM

Trunk or Treat
Wednesday, October 29
6:00 - 7:30 PM