



## Inside This Issue:

<i>Church News</i>	2
<i>VBS</i>	3
<i>The Reformed Church at Nordhorn</i>	4
<i>Birthdays</i>	5
<i>Servant's Page</i>	6
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	7

## Bible Passage of the Month

### 1 Corinthians 13:4-5

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Your love out loves all earthly love.  
Your love loves the unlovable.  
Your love cries out to the sinner.  
It's done the unforgettable!

Words can not express your pure love.  
Men can not comprehend your love,  
Yes sinners can receive your love;  
Comforted by your holy dove.

Your love shines of rarest beauty.  
Your love was given at great cost.  
Through love, you shed your perfect blood;  
And hung from that old rugged cross.

It was love that drove you to die;  
And brought life to that cold dark grave.  
Now, love is looking down from heaven;  
Seeks the souls of the lost to save.

T'was awesome love, wonderfully shown;  
To helpless men lost in their sin.  
No greater love, there's ever been;  
Than God came down to die for men.

~by Susan Y Nikitenko

## *Wild Game Dinner*

Our Wild Game Dinner will be on Saturday, February 10, at 6 p.m. It's our winter break potluck with lots of good food, wild and tame. It's a time of fellowship and storytelling. There will be door prizes, a 1<sup>st</sup> deer shot contest, biggest fish contest, and a special guest. We hope to see you there. Invite your friends and family. Bring a dish to pass, wild or tame.

### Where:

**Coopersville Reformed Church Activity Center**

### When:

**Saturday, February 10, 2024, 6 p.m.**

**Fun! Food! Fellowship! Prizes! Stories!**

## *Crossroads Fundraiser*

Valentine Dinner - Love at First Bite

Couples and singles welcome!

February 17 at 6:00 p.m. in the AC

Cost - \$25 per person which includes salad, rolls, beverage, main course, dessert, and after-dinner entertainment

Reserve tickets online (QR code to come) or after services February 4 and 11.

## *Combined Service*

Join us on Sunday, February 25, for a special combined service at 10:00 a.m. Our One Way Youth Group will be leading our service. This is one Sunday you will not want to miss!

## *Campers*

The church will pay half of the summer camp fee for kids who regularly attend and are actively involved. Call the office (616-837-8949) for the required Camp Geneva voucher code.

## *Women's Quilting Group*

We meet the second Friday of the month from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the Activity Center. Come and go as your schedule permits to sew, knit, and crochet for missions.

## *S.A.L.T. Events*

On Wednesday, February 14, we will have a soup lunch, dessert and games in the Activity Center.

## *W.O.W.*

Our Worship on Wednesday (W.O.W.) continues from 6:00-8:00 p.m. All kids ages 4-5th grade are welcome to join us for a time of worship, fun, and most importantly, learning about Jesus.

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

cooperville reformed church

JUNE 24-28

5:00-8 pm

VBS is for 4-year-olds through 5th grade in the fall.



We begin at 5 pm with a meal. Our fun will begin at 5:30 pm. This is going to be a fun-filled week “Diving into friendship with God!”



By Loren Lemmen, December 2023

What do the Coopersville area families Aarnink, Beernink, Bennink, Bosink, Busman, Gaalken, Gunneman, Handlogten, Harmsen, Laug, Lubben, Rankans, Smoes and Stroven have in common? The answer is that they all trace their roots to the Reformed Church at Nordhorn, Germany.

When the Dutch came to Western Michigan in 1847, along with them came a number of immigrants from just across the border in Germany. This small area, known as Grafschaft Bentheim, was once an independent principality, much like Lichtenstein. In 1588, the Count of Bentheim accepted the Reformed confessions and his subjects followed suit. They had much in common with their neighbors in the Netherlands. Linguistically, the borders meant little. The people on both sides of the border spoke very similar dialects. The county itself consists of only 379 square miles, and was very rural in the 1800s, yet thousands of people left it for a new life, either in The Netherlands or in America.

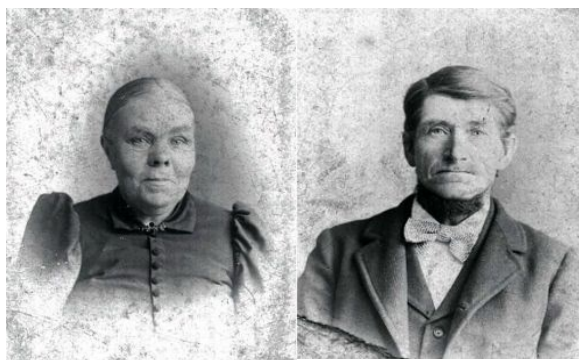
The original immigrants settled just south of Holland, Michigan where the villages of Graafschap and Bentheim, are named for their old homeland.

Several Rankans (originally Rammelkamp) siblings came to the Coopersville area about 1855 from an area near Nordhorn in Bentheim. They settled southeast of Coopersville, where a school, the Rankins school was named for them. They came from Bakelde, a hamlet in the parish of Nordhorn. You can read about one of the brothers in the photo essay, entitled “Frederick Rankans, a life cut short.” It wasn’t until after the Civil War ended that more immigrants from Bentheim arrived. This included the families Laug, Lubben, and Busman who purchased land together very close to Coopersville. This group had settled originally in Piqua, Ohio.

In 1882, at the age of 48, Harm Rankans of Coopersville returned to Bentheim and escorted a number of families from Nordhorn to Michigan. He traveled under his birth name of Rammelkamp. By 1883, there were so many families from Nordhorn in the area that they constituted five of the eight members of the Coopersville Reformed Church Council.

Another family that maintained ties with Nordhorn was the Busmans. In 1952, when Jake Busman was stationed in Germany while serving in the army, he visited the old family farm near Nordhorn and was allowed to play the organ at the Reformed Church in Nordhorn. His visit was featured in the Coopersville Observer at the time.

Bentheim is referenced on two cemetery stones in Maplewood Cemetery in Lamont. On the left, Geeze Rankans is said to have been born in Bakeld, Graafschap Bentheim, Hanover. On the other, Janna Bennink is reported to have been born in Graafschap Bentheim, Germany. Bentheim, once part of the Kingdom of Hanover, later became incorporated into modern Germany. Like Geeze, Janna was also born in Bakeld(e) which is a hamlet in the parish of Nordhorn.



Photos of Janna Busman Harmsen and Hendrik Harmsen

Article is from the Coopersville Historic Society’s website and used with their permission.

- 1 Bodyn DeMull**
- 2 Greg Johnson**
- 4 Nancy Courson**
- 5 Katie McEachen, Beth Veldman, Tim Wurm**
- 6 Betty Busman, Wayne Molyneux, Jon Visser**
- 8 Christina Brown**
- 9 Addison Lillibridge, Landon Kooiman, Ashley Saigeon,  
Vance Vassallo**
- 11 Monte Langlois, Joshua Mast, Betty Wurm**
- 12 Craig Busman, Becky Smoes, Lisa Wiltenburg**
- 13 Rich Breuker, Jacob Metten**
- 15 Ethan Casler, Jayden Penning, Pete Smoes**
- 16 Sarah Huston**
- 17 Gert Vander Kolk**
- 18 Sara Bode, Eric Van Dop**
- 19 Sue Smoes**
- 20 Alexis Mekkes**
- 21 Joshua Bassette**
- 23 Kenadie Chrysler, Marcia Draft, Westin Lillibridge**
- 24 LeighAnn DeVries, Carla Hart, Lisa McDonald**
- 25 Ryan Vander Tuin**
- 26 Judy Raterink**
- 27 Jason Bode, Rob Boyer, Ann DeYoung, Tyler Saigeon,  
Carl Wiltenburg**
- 28 Bethany Van Kempen**
- 29 Kate Jeffrey, Tessa Langeland**

# Servant's Page

6

## Nursery

		9:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
February 4	Infant Toddler	Danielle Poliski Mary Baird	Amber Vander Tuin Tracy Muller, Oliva Vander Tuin, Hannah Vander Tuin
February 11	Infant Toddler	Casey Van Antwerpen Mary Baird	Amber Vander Tuin LeighAnn DeVries, Onna DeVries
February 18	Infant Toddler	Shelly Visser Mary Baird	Amber Vander Tuin April DeMull, Jo Van Dop
February 25 Combined Service	Infant Toddler	Mary Baird	Amber Vander Tuin Trisha Schippers, Olivia Vander Tuin

## Little Tykes

		9:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
February 4	Leader Helpers	Doug Casler Samantha Ulven	Amanda Casler Michaela Courson, Reagan Schippers
February 11	Leader Helpers	Doug Casler Samantha Ulven	Amanda Casler Anya Dyk, Addie Dyk
February 18	Leader Helpers	Doug Casler Samantha Ulven	Amanda Casler Addy Keller, Olivia Wilson
February 25 Combined Service	Leader Helpers	Doug Casler Samantha Ulven	Amanda Casler Isaac DeVries, Reagan Schippers

## Greeters

		Back of Sanctuary	Lobby
January 7	9:00 a.m.	Needed	Jeff Alberda
January 14	9:00 a.m.	John & Alvina VanDoorn	Nichole Heinz
January 21	9:00 a.m.	Scott & Tami Schoolcraft	Rick & Marcia Draft
January 28	10:00 a.m.	One Way Youth Group	

## Coffee Fellowship

January 7	Beth Baron, Deb Mauk, Marcia Draft, JoAnn Maki, Kalene Sietsema
January 14	Kalene Sietsema, Evonne Erhorn, Mary Bialas, Tonya Lemmen, Karen Stewart, Beth Mast
January 21	Jody Baker, Judy McPheron, Staci Mihalek, Lisa Wiltenburg, Tracy Kooistra
January 28	LeaAnn Tibbe, Carol Riemersma, Julie Palma, Karen Lemmen, Kalene Sietsema

# Calendar of Events

7

## February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:00 am Worship 10:45 am Worship  6:00-8:00 pm Women's Bible Study 6:00-8:00 pm One Way	5 10:00 am S.A.L.T Bible Study	6 6:00-7:00 am Rooted in Prayer  7:00 pm Choir of Praise Practice	7 6:00 pm W.O.W. 6:30 pm Cuddle Up Time 6:45 pm The Vineyard	8	9 9:00 a.m.-2:00 pm Women's Work Bee	10 6:00 pm Wild Game Dinner
11 9:00 am Worship 10:45 am Worship	12 Office Closed  10:00 am S.A.L.T Bible Study	13 6:00-7:00 am Rooted in Prayer  7:00 pm Choir of Praise Practice	14 12:00 pm S.A.L.T. Event  6:00 pm W.O.W. 6:30 pm Cuddle Up Time 6:45 pm The Vineyard	15 6:30-8:00 pm Crossroads	16	17 6:00 pm Sweetheart Dinner (Crossroads Fundraiser)
18 9:00 am Worship 10:45 am Worship  6:00-8:00 pm Women's Bible Study 6:00-8:00 pm One Way	19 10:00 am S.A.L.T Bible Study	20 6:00-7:00 am Rooted in Prayer  7:00 pm Choir of Praise Practice	21 6:00 pm W.O.W. 6:30 pm Cuddle Up Time 6:45 pm The Vineyard	22 6:30-8:00 pm Crossroads	23	24
25 10:00 am Combined Service  6:00-8:00 pm One Way	26 10:00 am S.A.L.T Bible Study  <b>Sanctuary Hours:</b> 9 am-2 pm 6-8 pm	27 6:00-7:00 am Rooted in Prayer  7:00 pm Choir of Praise Practice	28 6:00 pm W.O.W. 6:30 pm Cuddle Up Time 6:45 pm The Vineyard	29 6:30-8:00 pm Crossroads		

**Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

Coopersville Reformed Church  
423 W. Randall Street  
Coopersville, MI 49404  
[www.coopersvillereformed.com](http://www.coopersvillereformed.com)



**S  
T  
A  
F  
F**

**Pastor John Hines**  
Lead Pastor  
Email: [pastorjohn@coopersvillereformed.com](mailto:pastorjohn@coopersvillereformed.com)  
Phone: 837-8949; ext. 1579

**Arnold Van Beek**  
Director of Senior Adult Ministries  
Email: [pastorarnold@coopersvillereformed.com](mailto:pastorarnold@coopersvillereformed.com)  
Phone: 616-502-2872

**Cookie Speet**  
Director of Kids Hope USA  
Email: [children@coopersvillereformed.com](mailto:children@coopersvillereformed.com)

**Bethany Courson**  
Director of Children's Ministries  
Email: [bethany@coopersvillereformed.com](mailto:bethany@coopersvillereformed.com)  
Phone: 837-8949, ext. 1583

**Amanda Casler**  
Director of Early Childhood  
Email: [earlychildhood@coopersvillereformed.com](mailto:earlychildhood@coopersvillereformed.com)

**Dori Keller**  
Director of Youth Ministries  
Email: [dori@coopersvillereformed.com](mailto:dori@coopersvillereformed.com)

**Heather Mekkes**  
Director of Discipleship  
Email: [heather.mekkes@coopersvillereformed.com](mailto:heather.mekkes@coopersvillereformed.com)

**Tami Schoolcraft**  
Director of Administration  
Email: [tami@coopersvillereformed.com](mailto:tami@coopersvillereformed.com)  
Phone: 837-8949, ext. 1580

**Heather Smoes**  
Administrative Assistant/Love Link Editor  
Email: [heather@coopersvillereformed.com](mailto:heather@coopersvillereformed.com)  
Phone: 837-8949, ext. 1581

**David Van Klompenberg**  
Director of Facilities  
Email: [dave@coopersvillereformed.com](mailto:dave@coopersvillereformed.com)  
Phone: 837-8949, ext. 1584

**Beth Mast**  
Treasurer  
Email: [treasurer@coopersvillereformed.com](mailto:treasurer@coopersvillereformed.com)

**Terry Metten**  
Choir of Praise Director  
Email: [janicemetten@gmail.com](mailto:janicemetten@gmail.com)

**Frank & Amanda Russell**  
Director of Contemporary Worship  
Email: [crcworship@coopersvillereformed.com](mailto:crcworship@coopersvillereformed.com)

**Connor Maki**  
Director of Young Adults  
Email: [connor@coopersvillereformed.com](mailto:connor@coopersvillereformed.com)